Introduction

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Children are a trust given to us and it is the duty of each one of us to ensure to nurture them according to the guidelines of Deen. If they are brought up properly, not only will these children become good nation-builders in the future, but they will become an excellent form of perpetual Sadaqah in the Aakhirah.

It is in this regard that the Trust has published several books on various subjects for the proper nurturing of the little members of the Ummah.

The first book in the series was published earlier and this is now the second. An appeal is made to all readers to practise on all the valuable content and advices in these books, to make their children also practise and to convey the message to others as well.

We also make a respected appeal to all scholars, learned people and writers to bring to our attention any shortcomings in these books or anything else that needs to be corrected.

We also appeal to everyone to make du'aa for all the colleagues, Ulema and members of the Baytul Ilm Trust who contributed to the preparation of this book.

May Allaah Y reward you all well.

Making Time to Acquire Knowledge

There were several islands in a certain area but not all of them had schools. The children therefore needed to travel by ferry to attend school.

One day, the children got up to mischief and decided to poke fun at the ferryman. One child therefore went up to the ferryman and said, "Sir! Do you know mathematics?" When the ferryman replied that he knew none of it, the child remarked, "You have wasted half your life." All the children then started to laugh.

A little while later, another child went up to the ferryman and said, "Sir! Do you know history?" When the ferryman replied that he knew none of it, the child remarked, "You have wasted half your life." All the children again started to laugh.

A little while later, another child went up to the ferryman and said, "Sir! Do you know science?" When the ferryman again replied that he did not know, the child remarked, "You have wasted half your life." Yet again, all the children again started to laugh.

In this manner, they continued making fun of the man. In the meanwhile, a storm brewed and it began to rain. The waves shook the ferry about and it was on the verge of sinking. Now it was the ferryman's turn. "O children!" he called out, "Do you know how to swim?" "No," they replied, "We do not know." He then said to them, "You have then wasted your lives (because you will drown)."

This will be the case on the Day of Qiyaamah. Whereas people today are telling the Ulema that they have wasted half their lives, on the Day of Qiyaamah, they will realise that it was them who wasted their lives. Think about what will happen there. There are maybe 5% (five percent) of people who have been entrusted to safeguard the interest of the Deen (the Ulema). They have studied every verse of the Qur'aan together with its proper meaning and are always defending the Deen from the floods of trouble that attack it from every side. This they are doing because it is the command of Allaah Y. Now instead of the other 95% (ninety five percent) who are unaware of the Deen dragging the

5% into the field of science, they should call them and rather learn the Deen from them.

NOTE: Through this incident our elders wish to teach us that instead of having regrets on the Day of Qiyaamah, we must learn about our Deen now and practise on this knowledge. Another lesson they wish to teach us is that Allaah Y has made the system of the world such that He has given different roles to different people. Just as we cannot tell all doctors to start planting vegetable fields, it will also be foolish for us to shift the limited amount of Ulema from the task of spreading and teaching the Deen and to engage them in other jobs and in acquiring other types of knowledge.

Some Important Health Aspects for Children

Dear friends! Our lives and health are wonderful favours from Allaah Y and a great trust that we must look after and make sure that they are not lost. We will also be questioned about this on the Day of Qiyaamah. We will be asked how we spent our lives and how we valued our free time and health. We must therefore avoid everything that harms our health and make up our minds to live our lives properly. We should use our good health to worship Allaah Y and to make an effort for the Deen. Our elders have given us many guidelines to care for our health and here are some of them:

1. Never, never eat anything without first washing your hands and never spit wherever you wish. Always carry a handkerchief or some tissue to spit in.
2. Always chew your food well before swallowing. (Make sure that you do not make any improper sounds when chewing and swallowing).
3. Never laugh or joke while eating and do not say anything very fast or hurriedly because it could cause the food or drink to get stuck in one's throat, which can be very dangerous.
4. We must stop eating sand and chalk and also stop other little children from doing so because this harms the health.
5. Do not take too much food in your hand when eating because it makes you look greedy and it becomes very difficult to chew and swallow so much. People often say that such a child is a 'glutton'.
6. Dear children! Get into the habit of brushing your teeth with the Miswaak and toothpaste. You will be healthy if your teeth are healthy and when the teeth are clean, the food going to the stomach will also be beneficial by the command of Allaah Y.
7. Our elders stress that children who are studying must take extra care to keep their teeth clean and also eat things that strengthen the brain, such as almonds.
8. Dear children! You must also sleep well and not stay awake unnecessarily. The habit of going to sleep only when everyone else is asleep is a very bad habit indeed.
9. Your nails must always be kept clean and cut regularly. Your hair should also be kept tidy and kept according to the Shari'ah and the Sunnah. This will give a person great peace in this world. Our elders stress that it is also Sunnah to cut the nails of little babies.

10. Never hold back your urine. Go to the toilet as soon as the need arises because many diseases can start by holding back your urine. You must also never stand and urinate.
11. Eat only the fresh food at home and never eat the food or drink anything sold on the streets at stalls outside the school.
12. Children must stay away from the many harmful foods and powders such as Paan, Gutka, etc.

NOTE: In fact, even adults should stay away from these harmful things and they should get together to approach shopkeepers in the area not to stock these items.

A Unique Reply

Science teacher: What is the strange sound you hear when water is boiling?

Child: Sir! It is the screams of the all the germs who are being killed by the boiling.

Respecting Elders

Hadhrat Junaid Baghdadi رحمه الله used to be a famous wrestler. A man once came to the king of the time and asked, "I wish to fight your wrestler." "What!" the king exclaimed, "My wrestler is an extremely powerful man while you are a small and thin man. How can you ever fight him?" The man however refused to listen and insisted. The king eventually gave in and when the two fighters were about to grapple with each other, the man whispered to Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله, "I am a Sayyid (relative of Rasulullaah ρ) and am very poor. You can do as you please."

As they fought, Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله suddenly fell down. There was a lot of shouting and noise from the people, but the king refused to accept it. He made the two fight again, but again Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله was floored. When the same thing happened for the third time, the king gave the prize money to the little man.

The king then called for Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله and asked, "Tell me the truth. What happened?" When Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله explained what had happened, the king was surprised to note that Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله could embarrass himself in front of so many people just because of his respect for a Sayyid. This was really a great act of bravery.

That night, Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله saw Rasulullaah ρ in a dream. Rasulullaah ρ said, "Congratulations, O Junaid! You were good to my relative because he was related to me. I shall also do a good turn to you and have made du'aa to Allaah Y to make you respected throughout the world."

The following day, Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله left his occupation with the king and went out in search of AllaahY's pious saints. He eventually followed his uncle Hadhrat Saqteer رحمه الله.[1]

LESSON: Remember that showing respect to elders increases a person's respect and does not reduce it. When someone respects his elders, people respect him and praise him even when he is not there. Rasulullaah ρ commanded us in a Hadith that we should respect our elders and have mercy on youngsters.

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[1] Makhzane Akhlaaq.

We also learn that when Hadhrat Junaid رحمه الله showed respect to a relative of Rasulullaah ρ, Allaah Y made the decision that respect will always be shown to him. Now if a person takes to his heart the actions of Rasulullaah ρ and carries them out, how much respect will he not have in the sight of Allaah Y?

Dear children! It is therefore necessary for us to learn about the Sunnah practices and du'aas of Rasulullaah ρ from people with knowledge and to do those things that are proven to have come from Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah ψ. By doing this, Allaah Y will make the decision for us to be successful both in this world and in the Aakhirah.

I am not Bad!

The entire neighbourhood was fed up with the mischief of Ashraf Urf Kowki. When he was not seen ringing people's doorbells and running away, he would be frightening other children with rubber reptiles. Even at school no one was safe from his mischief.

One day when one of his classmates scolded him for something, Kowki made his mind up to take revenge. During the break, he went up to the boy and said in an apologising way, "Dear brother! I was wrong. You are elder than me, larger in size and you have *Maasha Allaah* good health. Please forgive me and take out from your heart any ill feelings you have for me."

The tall boy and the others were very surprised to see this change in Kowki because he had never learnt how to seek forgiveness. There were of course those boys in the class who knew that there was something behind Kowki's behaviour because he was always a trouble-maker. These boys were right because from that day onwards, everyone started to call the tall boy a camel.

Kowki did not hit anyone and did nothing else besides a small action. When he asked the boy for forgiveness and was hugging him, he stuck a piece of paper on the boy's back which read, "I am a camel."

Wherever the tall boy went, the others would look at him and laugh. Some passed comments, while others even made the sound of a camel as he passed by. All of a sudden, he felt as if everyone was against him and he did not know why. "Why is everyone looking at me and laughing?" he thought. When he asked his friends what was happening, one of them removed the note that was taped to his back and handed it to him. "This must be the work of that Shaytaan!" the boy said, "I am going to report him to the teacher." The others agreed that he should.

Sir Khaalid was new in the school and did not know Kowki's behaviour. When he called for Kowki to question him, Kowki pretended to know nothing and made himself look innocent. "Sir," he said softly, "Amjad (the tall boy) is mistaken. I never did call him a camel." The teacher then let him off with a mild warning that he should never again do

anything that will hurt someone else. "Yes sir," Kowki said as he returned to his seat.

The next day, Kowki put a small frog in Amjad's desk drawer. When Amjad opened his drawer to put his books inside, the frog leapt out and he gave a loud scream. As he jumped back, Amjad fell off the chair and the frog fell on his head. It then hopped off to a safe place as Amjad sat there screaming. Half the class laughed while the other half stared at Kowki, who seemed too busy reading to worry about the incident.

Amjad again took his complaint to Sir Khaalid, saying that he was sure that it was Kowki who put the frog there. When Sir Khaalid called Kowki, he again acted like he knew nothing and said, "Sir! I don't know why Amjad only sees me whenever there is any trouble." Because no one saw Kowki put the frog in the drawer, he was saved from punishment.

Apart from his regular mischief, Kowki also had the habit of passing comments. Whenever Sir Khaalid was teaching, Kowki was always passing some comment which made the class laugh. For example, when marking the attendance register, Sir Khaalid once asked why Waqaar was not present. It was Kowki's voice that said, "He has indigestion because he ate too much at a function yesterday." When Sir Khaalid asked Waqaar the next day, he said that he had to accompany his father on a business trip. Sir Khaalid once scolded a weak student in the class, asking him whether he had any interest in learning. It was Kowki again who passed the comment saying, "Sir! It is because his head is filled with sawdust." Although Kowki kept quiet when Sir Khaalid scolded him, it was not long afterwards that he again started to pass comments.

One day when Kowki was again passing some comment, Sir Khaalid said, "Kowki! It seems to me that you are the bad boy in the class." Kowki was stunned to be told that he was bad because no one had ever said that to him before. Sir Khaalid continued, "Although I usually address every student with some respect, I cannot do the same for bad boys and you are definitely a bad boy. You hurt people and have no respect for teachers." Sir Khaalid was very angry as he then walked off to the staffroom.

For a while, Kowki was stunned. "I cannot do the same for bad boys and you are definitely a bad boy." These words of the teacher struck

Kowki's heart and echoed in his ears. Tears then started to flow from his eyes.

A short while later, he stood sobbing before Sir Khaalid in the staffroom. "Please forgive me, sir," he said, "I am not a bad boy. I am not a bad boy." Kowki repeated these words over and over and because his tone sounded so truthful, Sir Khaalid forgave him. Thereafter, he stopped troubling everyone.

LESSON: We must never poke fun at, trouble or disrespect our teachers or classmates. This will cause us to learn less, will cause us embarrassment and give us a bad name. Because Kowki was so used to troubling others and speaking out of turn, he started doing it even during lessons. Just imagine how disrespectful it is to talk while the teacher is busy explaining something. This has to lead to embarrassment at the end of the day.

After Kowki asked his teacher to forgive him, he stopped troubling others as well because he realised that his behaviour would lead to him being included in the list of bad people.

Which of you children will now make the intention to be included in the list of good people and show by his deeds that he really is good? He will then never have to say to anyone, "I am not a bad boy". Now is also the time for us to go and ask for forgiveness from all those whose hearts we may have hurt.

Masnoon Duaa

Recite the following du'aa when you see the first fruit of the season:

"O Allaah! Just as you have shown us the first fruit, show us also the last fruit"

Kindness towards the creation

Hadhrat Bayazeed Bistaami رحمه الله was a famous saint who lived a long time ago. His story is a very famous one. After he had passed away, someone saw him in a dream and asked, "How did Allaah Y treat you?" He replied, "Something very strange happened to me. When I reached Allaah Y, He asked me what action I had brought. I thought for a while about what reply to give. What action could I present? Because I could find nothing to present to Allaah Y, I said, 'O Allaah! I have brought nothing. I have come with empty hands and have nothing to hope for besides your mercy and generosity.'

Allaah Y then said to me, "While you had carried out many good deeds, there was a one particular deed that I loved very much. It is because of that single deed that I shall forgive you today. The deed was carried out on that night when you woke up and found a kitten shivering in the cold. Taking pity on the poor creature, you made a place under your blanket and kept him there. In the warmth of your blanket, the kitten spent the entire night in peace and safety from the cold. That night, that kitten prayed to Allaah Y saying, 'O Allaah! Just as of this man has given me safety from the cold, you give him safety from the heat of the Day of Judgement.' Since you did this solely for My pleasure and for no other reason, I loved this action very much and shall forgive all your sins because of it.'"

Hadhrat Bayazeed رحمه الله says, "Although I have achieved plenty of knowledge and recognition of Allaah Y in this world, the one cause for my safety was kindness to Allaah Y's creation."[1]

NOTE: We can imagine that if a person is rewarded so much for treating an animal kindly, how much more would he be rewarded for treating the best of a creation kindly. Furthermore, amongst the best of creation, how much more will he be rewarded for treating a Muslim kindly. Even more than this, the rewards are even greater for treating one's brothers, sisters, relatives and parents kindly.

We will be very foolish if we let the opportunity pass us and we do not treat relatives and strangers with kindness. In fact, we should be a means of peace and comfort to all people and should not cause them

[1] Taken from Islaahi Khutubaat (Vol.5).

any harm. The most important thing about good character is that no person should be harmed by our doings.

Now children! Which of you will make a firm intention never to cause any harm to their parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, school, friends and Madrassah friends, neighbours and all other people?

The Real Reason

Little boy: Mum! What oil is in this bottle?
Mum: That is not oil. It is glue.
Little boy: That must be why my hat cannot come off my head.

Of their great wealth of patience and gratitude

Patience and gratitude are two great qualities on which lies the foundation of Imaan. The person blessed with these two qualities will be successful in this world as well as in the next world. A Hadith tells us that Rasulullaah ρ once said, "The affairs of a Mu'min are unique. Every decision that Allaah Y makes for him turns out for the best. If difficulty comes to him, he exercises patience and this is good for him. One of the other hand, when he experiences good fortune, he thanks Allaah Y, and this is also good for him."[1]

If a person is ungrateful, then remember that Allaah Y is Independent and does not need thanks. Allaah Y dislikes ingratitude because it shows that a person does not appreciate the favour. As a result, Allaah Y has warned people of great punishment for showing ingratitude.

Every day we benefit from thousands off Allaah Y's favours. After the favour of Imaan, the greatest of favours that Allaah Y has given us are those of safety and good health. We will not be able to thank Allaah Y enough for these favours even if we have to thank Him all day and all night.

There was once a person who kept saying all day long, "What has Allaah Y given me that I can be thankful for?" Another person who always heard him saying this one day came up to him and said, "Dear brother! Please give me one of your legs for a hundred thousand coins." "What!" the man cried, "If I give you my leg, how will I walk? This leg is of great importance to me." The man then said, "All right, then give me any one of your arms for a hundred thousand coins." "What!" the man exclaimed again, "What are you saying? What will I do with a hundred thousand if I do not have these arms. How will I eat? How will I drink? How will I do my work?"

The person then explained to him, "You must be an extremely wealthy man if you will not part with just one leg for even a hundred thousand! Dear brother! Do not be so ungrateful because Allaah Y has not only given you thousands, but millions of favours. How many people are there who do not have hands and how many are there who do not have legs?" Thanking Allaah Y for the limbs of our body is done by using

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh (Vol2. Pg.256).*

them for worshipping Allaah Y and for doing things that He has commanded us to do.

There are many verses of the Qur'aan that speak about patience and Allaah promises great rewards for those who are patient. He has also promised them high stages in Jannah. In fact, Alllaah Y has promised the patient people such rewards that He has not promised anyone else.

A Hadith states: "The best of Mu'mineen are those who are content and the worst are those who are greedy."[1]

Another Hadith states: "The best of my Ummah are the contented ones and the worst are the greedy ones."[2]

A verse of the Qur'aan tells us that when a person is grateful for any favour, Allaah Y blesses him with even more favours.[3]

Therefore, if a person wants to be saved from punishment and wishes to enter Jannah, he should exercise patience when faced with difficulties. Furthermore, he should be steadfast and continue doing good deeds, while stopping himself from doing evil. This is also a great form of patience. In addition to this, he must also continuously thank Allaah Y for His favours and continue praying for the safety and security of his Imaan and his physical body.

NOTE: Dear children! We all come across many instances during the 24 hours of our day in which we are required to exercise patience. Now let us test ourselves to see whether we really do exercise patience during these times and whether or not we are able to bear them. We should think carefully whether we are exercising patience when our parents are sharing out ice-cream between us and our brothers and sisters. Or are we patient when our teacher is handing out some biscuits or toffees in the class? Are we patient when the teacher is giving out the books after checking them or when it is time for us to leave the classroom? Are we even patient at the time of climbing down the stairs or when getting into the car?

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[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.3 Pg.160) – Hadith 7123.
[2] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.3 Pg.160) – Hadith 7123.
[3] Surah Ibraheem.

Questions Pertaining to the Stories

Question 1: Why did Hadhrat Junaid Baghdaadi رحمه الله purposely lose the fight, because of which he became a great saint?
Question 2: What was Kowki's real name and what did he tell his teacher after being punished?
Question 3: What was the ferryman referring to when he told the children that they had wasted their entire lives?
Question 4: What deed was the cause for Hadhrat Bayazeed رحمه الله having all his sins forgiven?
Question 5: When is patience necessary?
Question 6: Read the note in the lesson discussing patience and gratitude and see the six instances mentioned when children are usually impatient. Add another three instances to this.

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 1: Which Sahabi τ did Allaah Y specially protect from Shaytaan?
Question 2: Which was the Sahabi τ according to whose opinion commands were given in nearly twenty places in the Qur'aan?
Question 3: Who was the Sahabi τ whom the angels were even shy for? He was the same Sahabi τ who never touched his private part with his right hand after he had shaken Rasulullaah ρ's hand.
Question 4: Who was the Sahabi τ whom the angels greeted?
Question 5: Who was the Sahabi τ whom Rasulullaah ρ asked for du'aas when he was leaving for Umrah?
Question 6: Who was the Sahabi τ whom a wolf informed about Islaam, after which he became a Muslim?
Question 7: Who was the Sahabi τ who was a fortune-teller before becoming a Muslim? The Jinn in his control encouraged him to become a Muslim for three days and it was because of the Jinn's insistence that he accepted Islaam.

Wishing Well for Others

Two pious men once travelled from a distant land to meet Hadhrat Abdullaah Haneef رحمه الله. When they arrived at his Khaanqah (a place where saints train people to correct their lives), they were informed that Hadhrat Abdullaah رحمه الله had gone to see the king. They said in their hearts, "What kind of a saint is this that he goes to see the king?" They then left and went into the town. When they reached a tailor's shop, they thought that they may as well mend their torn clothing. They therefore went into the tailor's shop and asked him for a needle to mend their clothes. It so happened that that tailor had lost his scissors, so he thought that these two men were responsible for the crime. He therefore caught hold of them and brought them before the king. Hadhrat Abdullaah رحمه الله happened to be with the king at the time, so when the tailor accused the two, Hadhrat Abdullaah رحمه الله said, "These two men are very pious and righteous. It is therefore impossible for them to have stolen." The King accepted the verdict and had them set free. Hadhrat Abdullaah رحمه الله then addressed the two men, saying, "The thoughts you had about me were wrong. I only come to the king to do things like this." Both men then became his followers.

LESSON: The story teaches us never to have evil thoughts about a person when we see him doing something that appears to be wrong. We must first verify the situation before making any judgement. Another thing to remember is that when someone thinks bad of us, we must still be good towards him and continue thinking good of him. We should think that it was Shaytaan who gave him the wrong impression.

It sometimes happens that someone in your class gives the teacher a wrong impression of you. In such a case, you should explain to the person in a good manner that what he did was wrong and that you will inform the teacher that the information was wrong. We must never wait for revenge, thinking that we will also falsely accuse him of something when the opportunity arises.

In a similar manner, if we happen to misplace our chocolate, notebook or pencil, we should never suspect anyone else of taking it. When we have good thoughts of other people, Allaah Y will make other people love us. Our pious elders used to say that when a person thinks evil of another person, Allaah Y will ask him to prove the truth of what he

thought on the Day of Qiyaamah. On the other hand, when we think good of a person, we will receive rewards without effort.

Concentrating on one's Studies

Hadhrat Shah Abdul Qaadir رحمه الله lived in Raipur. When he wanted to get admitted into the Daarul Uloom, he approached the principal and asked him, "I wish to acquire knowledge." The principal said, "We can arrange for your boarding, but cannot provide any food." Hadhrat Shah Abdul Qaadir رحمه الله accepted the condition and was admitted. He says, "After starting at the Daarul Uloom, I used to walk in the streets at night and look for the leaves of fruits and vegetables. I would then pick them up, wash them and eat them." In this manner, he lived for an entire year, but did not stop his studies.

Hadhrat Shah Abdul Qaadir رحمه الله says, "I had an earthen pot in which I kept the letters that my family wrote to me. It was only after the exams that I would remove them from the pot and read them. When I then went home, I would meet my friends and families, thank them for their letters and say good words to them. They would be the very pleased to know that I still the remembered their letters after such a long time. They however did not know that I had not read any letters for the entire year because it would interrupt my studies."

LESSON: This story teaches us that when a person wishes to study, he should give all his attention to his studies and not allow anything else to distract him. Distractions will only waste his time and harm his knowledge. By devoting all our attention to our studies, our knowledge will be well grounded and beneficial to us.

Dear children! Whereas this story tells us that we should not be distracted by friends throughout the time that we are studying, you can imagine how harmful it is to be mischievous at that time when a lesson is being conducted. Therefore, we should not do anything to harm our studies and the studies of anyone else. Whether we are at school, at Madrassah or at home, we should not do anything to distract our friends, brothers or sisters from their studies because this will harm them as well as ourselves.

A Camel from Jannah

Rasulullaah ρ married his beloved daughter Hadhrat Faatima رضي الله عنها to Hadhrat Ali τ and their children were Hadhrat Hasan τ and Hadhrat Husayn τ. Hadhrat Ali τ was not a wealthy person, he had to work hard or to learn something. When he could not find any work, the family had to remain hungry. Dear children! You should remember that these people intentionally gave up the wealth and world to live a life of patience.

One day, when Hadhrat Ali τ was leaving the house, Hadhrat Faatima رضي الله عنها gave him some thread saying, "I have some spun this thread and I want you to sell it in the marketplace. The take the money you receive from it to buy some flour so that I may bake some bread for Hasan and Husayn."

Hadhrat Ali τ took the thread to the marketplace, where he sold it for six Dirhams. He was about to buy some of flour with the money, when he heard someone say, "Who is there to give me something in the name of Allaah!" Although Hadhrat Ali τ was a poor man, but he was so generous that he could not return any beggar empty-handed from his presence. Now when he heard the beggar ask for something, he gave the six Dirhams over to him. The man thanked him and left and Hadhrat Ali τ then left for home.

A while later, someone came to him with a large and healthy camel and said, "O Ali! Do you wish to buy this camel?" Hadhrat Ali τ said, "But I have no money with me." "That's alright," the man said, "I am prepared to sell it on credit." Saying this, the man put the rope of the camel into Hadhrat Ali τ's hand without saying anything else and without fixing a price. As Hadhrat Ali τ stood there with the camel, a villager came up to him and said, "O Ali! Will you sell me this camel?" "Certainly," Hadhrat Ali τ said as he handed the rope over to the man. As he took the rope, and man handed over 300 Dirhams to Hadhrat Ali τ and left with the camel. Hadhrat Ali τ then set off to look for the seller but could not find him anywhere.

When he returned home, Rasulullaah ρ was there with Hadhrat Faatima رضي الله عنها . Hadhrat Ali τ was still thinking of relating the story to Rasulullaah ρ when Rasulullaah ρ smiled and said, "O Ali! Do you know who those

men were?” Hadhrat Ali τ said, “Allaah Y and His Rasool ρ know best.” Rasulullaah ρ then said, “The men were both angels and the camel was a camel from Jannah. It is on this camel that Faatima رضي الله عنها will ride into Jannah. When you gave the six Dirhams to the beggar, Allaah Y loved the deed very much and although you will receive the reward in the next world, Allaah Y has also given you something in this world.”

This teaches us that if a beggar is needy, one should give him as much as one can afford and when one will fulfil his need, Allaah Y will give one great blessings. If one is unable to give him something, one must at least excuse oneself in a gentle manner and not unnecessarily scold the beggar because doing so will cause one great harm (one may however scold the beggar not too harshly if he refuses to go away despite being told several times). If we know that some friend of ours is poor, we should inform our fathers or some other elders about it so that they may help.

Light in the Darkness

“Junaid! Let me hear you repeat the lesson on Karachi that I told you to learn yesterday,” Sir Shaheed said.

“I was not at school yesterday, Sir,” Junaid replied.

Sir Shaheed scolded Junaid saying, “You ought to have found out what work was given yesterday. Sit down! I am letting you off this time, but that excuse will not work the next time. Daanish! You tell it to me.”

When the teacher asked Daanish, he immediately rattled it off most fluently. Thereafter, Umair, At’har and Dishaan also repeated the lesson, but very slowly and staggeringly. The teacher then asked Sayfullaah to repeat the lesson. Sayfullaah was sitting in fear because he sensed what was coming to him. He was scared as he stood up and although he began to repeat the lesson in a stuttering manner, the gaze of the teacher fixed on him made him forget the lesson and he suddenly fell silent. The teacher was furious and as punishment, he made Sayfullaah stand with the boys who had not learnt their lesson. He also did not allow them out during the break.

Sayfullaah found it very difficult to learn any lesson and although he made a lot of effort, he always seemed to forget. It seemed as if the words of his father and little sister Aa’isha were so true when they said that he was a ‘good-for-nothing’ who could not concentrate on his studies. In addition to this, Aa’isha would often make fun of him. It was only his mother who understood his difficulty. She knew that although Sayfullaah did his best to learn, he forgot very quickly. She would therefore explain things to him with great love.

Sayfullaah now had another problem that was troubling him. The problem was that when a new teacher came, the words just got stuck in Sayfullaah’s throat. It then appeared as if he knew absolutely nothing. The teacher however noticed that instead of going out for break, Sayfullaah always remained behind in that class. After noticing this for several days, the teacher one day asked him, “Sayfullaah! Why don’t you go out for break?” The teacher’s question made him panic and he was not able to give a reply.

It was his friend Junaid who said , “Sir! Although he learns everything at home, he keeps forgetting it. He therefore has to sit in class during the breaks to learn his work all over again.” The teacher said, “You must try to concentrate when learning. The best time to do this is after the morning prayer when you can sit all alone by yourself and devote yourself to your studies...” The bell then rang just as the teacher completed his sentence and he left.

After that day, Sayfullah changed his routine. Although he did see an improvement, he still received a lot of scolding. However, when the teacher congratulated him despite him getting stuck while repeating a lesson, the praise made his confidence grow, that was the turning point of his life and from then onwards, he grew into a successful person. The words of praise that the teacher gave him always guided him forward and nowadays he also encourages other children in the same way.

LESSON: We should also take great courage when learning. We should make a lot of du’aa after salaah and also ask our elders to make du’aa for us. We should recite Surah Faatiha, blow on water and drink it. In addition to this, we should also take almonds and honey. It sometimes happens that we get stuck and stumble and are also affected by difficulties when we mock at and make fun of other children or elders, or when we hurt their hearts by imitating them. We should therefore avoid doing this. Furthermore, we should make du’aa for others to be kept safe in both worlds and also give courage to others who are in difficulty. We should never lose hope because there is always light at the end of every tunnel.

The Reward for having Imaan

“Najma dear!” her mother called, “Where are you?”
“Mum! I am here in the little girl’s room!” Najma replied.
“What are you doing there? Come here! The upstairs room has to be cleaned. Today our madam is getting visitors. How many times have I told you this, but instead of being active, you are getting more and more lazy.”
“Oh mum! I am just looking at the little girl’s toys. Look how nice they are! Why don’t you get me some?”
“Dear daughter! It is only wealthy people who can afford this. We cannot. Come, now stop talking and go and clean the upstairs room. It is now getting very late and madam will be bringing her children back from school. Come child, come!”

Najma got up with sadness in her eyes. She stopped looking at the little girl’s toys and started walking upstairs. As she worked, she thought, “Why can’t we afford these things? Why can we not wear such beautiful clothing and play with such wonderful toys? Just like Sheikh Chilli, she was in a dream world, enjoying herself in a beautiful garden when a large glass vase in her hand fell down and broke. As it crashed to the floor, ten notes of a thousand fell out together with some gold, silver and jewels. Looking at this with wide eyes, the thought came into her mind, “Why don’t I take all of these, sell them and then have enough money to buy the clothes and toys that the little girl has?”

As her mind told her to be quick to pick up the things, her heart said, “Think well what you are doing. When you run away from here, your madam will know what has happened. She would know that you have stolen the money and jewellery. What will then happen to your mother? Even though she would be alive, she would be dying inside because people will call her the mother of a thief.”

These thoughts played about in her mind for a long time. Eventually, her heart got the better over her mind and she gathered everything together. She then went quickly to her mother to hand the things over to her. As she walked downstairs, her mind still begged her, “The opportunity is still there. Quickly take everything and run away.” Her heart however told her to quickly go to her mother if she did not want regrets. When she came to her mother and showed her the things, her

mother’s eyes also lit up. As her eyes filled with greed, she told herself that she would never be able to earn so much wealth even though she worked her entire life.

When she mentioned this to Najma, the girl said, “Dear mother! Rather than having nice clothing, good toys and a nice house, I would prefer to have a nice Aakhirah. Even though we would indeed be able to lead a nice life with this money, the black mark of stealing will forever be written in our books of deeds. How will we then be able to face Allaah Y?”

These words had a great effect on her mother and she said, “I am very proud to be the mother of a daughter who is so pious and filled with Imaan. Come, dear daughter! Let us go to the Madam and explain everything to her. Saying this, she took Najma by the hand and they both went to the madam. There, Najma spoke the complete truth. The madam was so impressed that she increased Najma’s mother’s salary and enrolled Najma in the school, making it her responsibility to see to all the school expenses. The jewellery was her favourite and had been missing for a while. What had happened was that when they were moving the jewellery from its place they had forgotten where it was kept.

As she travelled to school with the madam’s daughter Sarah, Najma thought to herself, “Had I stolen the money and run away, I would now have to live hiding away from people. However, as a result of my Imaan, I now have the toys and clothes that Sarah has.” As the driver braked, Najma returned to the real world and entered the school with Sarah.

Today was the day they were to receive their results. Najma hoped that she and Sarah would receive some position in class because they had both worked very hard that year. As they had hoped, they both achieved first position in their classes and were both very happy. This was the result of their hard work and the du’aas of their parents.

LESSON:

Dear children! Look at how this girl did not steal because of her fear for Allaah Y. She controlled herself and returned the jewellery to its owner. This made Allaah Y very happy He opened the doors of peace and comfort to her. The heart of their madam also became soft towards

them and they earned her respect. Most importantly, they were saved from destruction in the Aakhirah.

Dear children! Keep this in mind that Imaan is an extremely great and valuable treasure without which a person would achieve nothing in this world and the Aakhirah. Whereas the rewards for a person of Imaan will be given to him in the Aakhirah, the rewards for Imaan and good deeds also come in this world where Allaah Y gives a person peace, comfort and respect.

NOTE: We should call also make the intention that we will not allow Shaytaan or bad friends to lead us into doing what is wrong. We must not hide away from our parents and do what we should not be doing because we must always keep in mind that Allaah Y is always watching us.

Jealousy is an Evil Habit

A person should always remember that whatever favour a person receives is from Allaah Y. Sometimes a person makes an effort and Allaah Y gives him the favour, while there are times when he receives the favour without any effort. Once we understand this, we will realise that we must never be jealous of anyone and never worry about the fact that someone else has something that we do not have.

Another thing to remember is that just as Allaah Y Alone has created everything and everything is from Allaah Y, it is wise to ask for everything only from Him because there is no shortage in His treasures. Allaah Y made some nights more important than others, such as the night of Qadr, the night of Muzdalifa and the night of Jumu'ah. Similarly, Allaah made some days more important than others, such as the day of Jumu'ah. Allaah Y has also made Makkah more important than other cities, has made Jannatul Firdous more important than other Jannahs, has made four angels more important than others and has made the mother more important than other relatives.

Just as the days can not ask why the nights have been given more importance, every creation should be happy with what Allaah Y has given them and should never be sad thinking, "Why is she so beautiful?", "Why is he so wealthy?", "Why is he so intelligent?", etc.

Rather than this, if the favour can be attained through effort, we must make if the necessary effort to get it. Otherwise, when it is something given by Allaah Y, we should ask Him to give us the same. In fact, men of knowledge have taught us to make du'aa, saying, "O Allaah! Give me this favour just as you have given it to him. Also give him the ability to thank you for it and never let him lose it."

However, when a person is jealous he would be found saying, "Why has he got this? When did he become worthy of this? Why does he still have it? How will he be able to use it? Why do we not have it? Why is it not taken away from him and given to me?" Saying such things shows jealousy, and is totally Haraam according to the Qur'aan and the Ahadeeth. It is a terrible calamity and the person who does not stop himself from it with be destroyed. In fact, the Ulema have written that

it was the very same jealousy that led the Jew to cast a spell on Rasulullaah ρ.[1]

Jealousy actually means that a person burns inside when he sees another person enjoying a favour or comfort. Together with this, he wishes that the favour be taken away from the person even though he himself does not get it.[2]

Ulema have also mentioned that jealousy was the very first sin committed in the heavens when Iblees showed jealousy towards Hadhrat Aadam υ.[3]

May Allaah Y save all Muslims from this terrible habit. Dear friends, we should make it a habit to thank Allaah Y with our hearts and with our tongues for every favour He has given us. When we see the favours other people have, we should make du'aa that Allaah Y blesses them in it and never takes it away from them. If we have any jealousy towards a person, we should praise the person so that our hearts become softer towards them.

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[1] *Ma'aariful Qur'aan* (Vol.8 Pg.845).
[2] *Ma'aariful Qur'aan* (Vol.8 Pg.849).
[3] *Ma'aariful Qur'aan* (Vol.8 Pg.849).

The Story of Qaaroon

Qaaroon was a Haafidh of the Torah who knew more of the Torah than anyone else from the Bani Israa’eel. However, just like Saamiri, he also turned out to be a great enemy of religion. Allaah Y has mentioned that the reason for him going far away from religion was his greed for wealth and honour. When he earned a lot of wealth, he died with the greed of gaining honour.

Greed for honour even worse than greed for wealth because even poor people have this greed and it also makes beggars proud people, something which Allaah Y dislikes. Love for wealth and love for honour are two such things that can destroy the Deen of a person just as badly as two hungry wolves destroy a flock of sheep.[1]

Hadhrat Moosa υ was the leader of the Bani Israa'eel and his brother, Hadhrat Haaroon υ was also a Nabi and his minister. Qaaroon was jealous of this and wanted to know why he could not also be a leader. When he complained about this to Hadhrat Moosa υ, Hadhrat Moosa υ told him that this was decided by Allaah Y and that he could do nothing about it. Qaaroon was however not happy with this reply and continued being jealous of Hadhrat Moosa υ (in fact, he even blamed Hadhrat Moosa υ of doing something he did not do).

Allaah Y however gave Qaaroon so much of wealth that let alone carrying the treasures, it was difficult for a group of strong men to even carry the keys to the treasures.

When a person who receives a lot of wealth is not a pious person, he starts getting proud. This means that he thinks he is better than other people. The same thing happened to Qaaroon. Because of his wealth, he started to look down upon Bani Israa'eel. As a result, he turned away from Allaah Y’s commands and started doing things as he wished. His people told him not to be proud because Allaah Y does not like proud people. They also advised him to spend his wealth in charity so that his wealth can be of use to him even after his death.

However, Qaaroon did not listen to them. He said that the wealth came to him because of his own efforts. One day, he walked with pride and

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[1] Taken from a Hadith of Hadhrat Ka’b bin Maalik, reported in Tirmidhi (Vol.2 Pg.62).

arrogance to show off his wealth and to make a display of it. Those who did not have proper understanding of Deen were taken aback by this and said, "If only we had as much wealth as Qaaroon." When people of Imaan heard them say this, they said, "Do not be impressed by the wealth of this world. It is really nothing and will soon disappear. True wealth is the wealth of Imaan and good deeds because when a man accepts Imaan and does good deeds, the rewards from Allaah Y are much better for him. However, it is only the patient ones who will receive these rewards."

As Qaaroon trotted along and boasted, people impressed by this world looked on with sadness. However, this was the time for Allaah Y to take Qaaroon to task. At night Allaah Y caused all of Qaaroon's wealth and riches to sink into the ground. Neither did his wealth assist him, nor his followers, nor his servants or his guards. He also could do nothing to save himself from AllaahY's punishment.

When the people looked around the next morning, there was no sign of either Qaaroon or his wealth and riches. All of it had become a morsel for the ground. Those who just the previous day had been wishing to be like him said, "We now understand that we were foolish to wish that we were like him. The fact is that Allaah Y gives more to those whom He wills and he gives less to those whom He wills (when a person is not rich, it does not mean that Allaah Y dislikes him. Similarly it also does not mean that Allaah Y likes him if he is rich). It is better that Allaah Y did not grant us what we wished for. Had Allaah Y granted us our wish, we would have also ended up just like Qaaroon. It is the favour of Allaah Y not to give us wealth and thereby save us from being swallowed into the ground."

LESSON:

This story teaches us that we should pray to Allaah Y for safety of our Imaan, safety for all the limbs of our body and for sustenance which is blessed. We should abstain from ingratitude and happy with what Allaah Y gives us. We must also ask Allaah Y to save us from all evil that is seen or unseen. If we have to walk to school because our father cannot afford a car or we do not have a nice car, we must never burn to see someone else with a new and shiny car. We must never say, "Why don't we have this?" We must rather make du'aa to Allaah Y to give us the same.

However, we must never ever hope that Allaah Y gives us some sinful thing that another child has. We must remember that the result of sin is punishment. We would never know what punishment or difficulty may be coming because of the sin. May Allaah Y save us and all Muslims from sin and disobedience. Aameen.

Questions Pertaining to the Stories

Question 1: What is the second quality with patience that forms the foundation of Imaan?
Question 2: Where did Hadhrat Shah Abdul Qaadir Raaipuri رحمه الله live?
Question 3: To whom did Rasulullaah ρ's daughter Hadhrat Faatima رضي الله عنها get married?
Question 4: How did the madam rewards Najma for her deed?
Question 5: Name some important nights.
Question 6: Why was Qaaroon punished?
Question 7: What two habits cause a lot of harm to a person's Deen?

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 8: Who was the Sahabi τ whom an idol invited him to accept Islaam while he was worshipping it?
Question 9: Although approximately eleven Sahabah ψ saw the Adhaan being given before them in a dream, who was the Sahabi τ who was the first to relate the Adhaan to Rasulullaah ρ?
Question 10: During the Ramadhaan before Rasulullaah ρ passed away, he recited the entire Qur'aan twice to Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ. Who was the Sahabi τ who was present at the time?
Question 11: Who was the Sahabi τ whom Rasulullaah ρ informed before time that he would wear the gold bangles of the Persian Emperor?
Question 12: Who was the Sahabi τ who dug graves well and dug the blessed grave of Rasulullaah ρ?
Question 13: A famous scholar of the Torah who accepted Islaam said that because of the description of Rasulullaah ρ in the Torah, he recognised Rasulullaah ρ as well as he recognised his own sons. Who was this honoured Sahabi τ?
Question 14: Who was the Sahabi τ whose name is clearly mentioned in the Qur'aan?

Abstaining from Looking for Faults in Others

To show his talent, a young artist took a lot of pains to paint a picture. After some time, when the painting was ready, he took it to a busy marketplace and hung it on a board. He then wrote the following sentence beneath the painting, "Please use a pencil to mark any faults in the picture."

The young artist was very pleased and with his painting and thought that there would not be a single pencil mark on the painting. However, much to his surprise, the entire painting was covered with pencil marks by the evening. In fact, the painting itself could hardly be seen beneath all the pencil marks. The young man's heart was broken and he lost all hope.

When his father asked him the reason for his sadness, he explained and the entire story to him. After listening to this story, the father said, "Prepare another picture just like that one." Again, the young artist set to work and after some time, the painting was ready. His father then took the painting to the same marketplace and wrote the following sentence beneath it, "Please use a pencil to correct any faults in this painting."

That evening, the artist found not a single mark on his painting. When he mentioned it to his father, his father said, "While it is very easy to find faults with something, it is extremely difficult to correct the fault."

NOTE: This story teaches us not to look for the faults of others but to rather correct our own faults because a person cannot progress by searching for the faults of others. One can progress only by finding and correcting one's own faults. We also learn that there is great benefit in listening to our elders.

Masnoon Duaa

Recite the following du'aa when you visit a sick person:

لَا بَأْسَ طَهُوْرٌ إِنْ شَآءَ اللهُ

"Do not worry. You are being cleansed from sin, Inshaa Allaah."

Hadhrat Khabbaab bin Arat τ Undergoes Hardship

Hadhrat Sha'bi رحمه الله says that when Hadhrat Khabbaab bin Arat τ once went to see Hadhrat Umar τ, Hadhrat Umar τ let him sit on his seat and said, "Besides one person, I see no one on the surface of this earth who is more worthy of sitting in this place." "Who is that person?" Hadhrat Khabbaab τ asked. "Bilaal τ," Hadhrat Umar τ replied.

To this, Hadhrat Khabbaab τ said, "I do not think so because whereas Bilaal τ had people from amongst the Mushrikeen who saved him, I had no one. One day, the Mushrikeen lit a fire and threw me in it. One of them then put his foot on my chest and stood on it, because of which I could not get up."

Hadhrat Sh'abi (R.A) reporting this story, says that Hadhrat Khabbaab τ also mentioned that the fire was put out by his back. Hadhrat Khabbaab τ then lifted up his clothing to show his back and the people saw that his back had become white with the burns.[1]

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[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.13 Pg.162) – Hadith 37022.

Tower of Light

As soon as Hadhrat Khabbaab τ accepted Islaam, the Mushrikeen started to oppress him and harm him. They heated iron rods and branded his head and also made him lie on hot coals. When he still refused to give up Islaam, they became more angry and placed a heavy rock on his chest and one of them started to jump on the rock. The hot coals eventually went into his flesh and started to melt the fat of his body. It was the melting fat that put the fire off.

This left white marks and holes on his back, which never went away. In fact, his little child would actually put his finger in the holes and play with them. Hadhrat Khabbaab τ however exercised patience and remained steadfast.

He suffered so much that Rasulullaah ρ had to make du'aa to Allaah Y saying, "O Allaah Y! Help Khabbaab!" As a result of the hardships he endured, Hadhrat Khabbaab τ's name decorates the pages of Islaamic history.

NOTE: Dear children! You can see with what difficulty Islaam has reached us. We must therefore never ignore the commands of Deen and make sure that we learn every du'aa Rasulullaah ρ read and teach it to others as well. We must be strong to avoid all sins and make a firm intention that we will always teach others the pure Deen of Allaah Y and the Sunnah acts of Rasulullaah ρ.

Respecting the name of Muhammad ρ

The king Naasirud Deen Mahmood had a servant called Muhammad who was with him most of the time. Although the king always called him Muhammad, it so happened one day that the king called him Taajud Deen ('the crown of Deen'). Although the servant did what the king told him at the time, he did not appear before the king for three day afterwards.

When he finally came to the king again, the king asked him where he had been. He replied, "You always call me Muhammad so when you called me Taajud Deen, I thought that you were angry with me." "Not at all," the king replied, "that was not the reason for not calling you by your name. I did not call you by your name that time because I did not have wudhu and I feel that it is not appropriate to say the name Muhammad without wudhu."[1]

LESSON: Dear friends! Look how much respect he had for the name of Muhammad even though he only meant to call the servant. Whereas he never met Rasulullaah ρ, the fact is that when someone loves another person, he loves everything attached to the person and respects it.

We must also bring Allaah Y's greatness and love for Rasulullaah ρ into our hearts and even when we see the name Muhammad written anywhere, we should show respect to it. We must say Rasulullaah ρ's name with respect and never say or write his name without adding the words صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَ سَلَّم (Sallaallaahu alayhi wa Sallam).

We must also regularly recite Durood. The shortest Durood is to recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّد ρ

The best is of course to follow the blessed path of Rasulullaah ρ and to ask the learned people about Rasulullaah ρ's Sunnah so that we could practise on them.

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[1] *Taareekhe Farishta* (Vol.1 Pg.276).

Masnoon Duaa

Recite the following du'aa when you eat at someone else’s house or when someone gives you something to eat or drink:

"O Allaah! Feed those who have fed me and give drink to those who gave me drink.”

Solving problems with Du'aa

The story of Salaahud Deen Ayyoobi رحمه الله comes to mind. It was during the time that he was fighting the Christians when the Christians brought all their forces together along in the attempt to defeat the Muslims. In addition to this, their naval fleet was also sailing in to assist them. When he heard about this, Salaahud Deen Ayyoobi رحمه الله was very worried. He knew that the Muslims were few in number and did not have enough equipment. He therefore went to Baytul Maqdas where he spent the entire night in Ruku and Sajdah, begging Allaah Y for help.

When he came out after performing the Fajr salaah, he saw a pious looking man sitting there. He went up to the man, greeted him with Salaam and said, "Dear man! The naval fleet of the Kuffaar is coming to attack us. Please make du'aa that Allaah Y grants us victory over them."

The man looked up at him and somehow knew that he had spent the entire night crying before Allaah Y. He therefore said, "The tears of Salaahud Deen Ayyoobi has sunk the naval fleet." Then next day the news reached them that the naval fleet had indeed sunken that night.

When a Muslim lifts up his hands to make du'aa to Allaah Y, Allaah Y actually changes the geography of the world. However, we have not learnt this lesson because the pleasure we derive from the things of this world has caused us not to derive pleasure from worshipping Allaah Y.

LESSON:

It is learnt from this story that whenever a Muslim faces any difficulty or whenever he needs something, he can have it fulfilled by making du'aa to Allaah Y. He should then take advice from his elders and make an effort in that direction. It is a fact that the benefits and effects of du'aa are stronger during the last third of the night. Some people actually feel this. May Allaah Y grant us all the ability to perform all our Fardh salaahs regularly. Dear children! We should ensure that we do not disturb our parents at night and that we go to bed early and without any troubles so that our parents can get up for the Tahajjud salaah at night and make du'aa for us.

Questions Pertaining to the Stories

Question 1: What deed did the king Naasirud Deen Mahmood do that reached the heights of respect?

Question 2: What was Salaahud Deen Ayyoobi رحمه الله used to doing before battles, because of which Allaah Y granted him victory?

Question 3: What du'aa should we read when someone gives us something to eat or drink. Recite the du'aa and write the translation.

Question 4: What advice did the father give his artist son about the picture?

Question 5: Why was Hadhrat Khabbaab τ tortured?

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 15: Who was the Sahabi τ who was martyred in the Battle of Mu'ta and whom Rasulullaah ρ referred to as the one with two wings because Allaah Y gave him wings in place of his arms. Rasulullaah ρ saw him flying with these wings in Jannah.

Question 16: Who was the Sahabi τ who was a Muhaajir as well as an Ansaari, who was a slave as well as a free man and whose knowledge of the Qur'aan was exceptional?

Question 17: Who was the Sahabi τ who was thrown into a fire but was saved from it when Rasulullaah ρ made du'aa saying, "O Allaah Y! Make the fire cool and pleasant for him just as You had made it for Ibrahem υ"?

Question 18: Who were the two Sahabah ψ whose staffs used to light up by the du'aa of Rasulullaah ρ and enable them to see in the dark?

Question 19: Who was the Sahabi τ who was completely blind before Rasulullaah ρ applied his blessed saliva to his eyes? He was then able to see so well that even in old age, he could thread a needle.

Question 20: Who was the poor Sahabi τ who was given seventeen gold coins by a rat who brought it out of a hole when this Sahabi τ was in the toilet? He then asked Rasulullaah ρ for permission to use the money and was a rich man even before spending them all.

Question 21: Who was the Sahabi τ who carried the flag of Islaam when Makkah was conquered?

<u>You get what you give</u>

The teacher gave the following question in a test: "Prove that the world is round".

A student wrote:

1) You said that the world is round
2) Dad says that the world is round
3) Everyone says that the world is round
4) Even if you go to a high building you will see that the world is round

It is therefore proven that the world certainly is round."

After marking the paper, the teacher gave it back to the student with a note at the end saying, "Take spectacles and see well that your marks are also round 0/10."

Standing up to Danger is a Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ

Dear children! When Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah ψ were in Makkah, the Kuffaar did everything they could to harm them and would not allow them to rest in peace. Even after they had migrated to Madinah, the Kuffaar still did not allow them to breathe in peace because they did not want them to settle down and propagate Islaam. They made every effort to finish the Muslims off, even in Madinah.

Because Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah ψ were well aware of the intentions of the Kuffaar, they always remained prepared. During the early years in Madinah, they even slept with their weapons and kept guard over Madinah.

Dear children! It was during those times when one night a loud sound was heard. The people of Madinah ran out of the town to find out what it was, but when they reached, they found that Rasulullaah ρ was all ready there, riding the bare-backed horse of Hadhrat Abu Talha τ. In fact, he was already returning with his sword hanging around his neck. He said, "Do not worry, there is no danger here."

Rasulullaah ρ was the first to get his weapons and the first to face the danger. When the others arrived, he was already returning.

Dear children! Our Nabi ρ was extremely brave and courageous and not like the commanders and rulers of other nations, would first look for the safest place to hide and then send others to face the danger. Rasulullaah ρ marched with the Mujaahideen into the battlefields and faced the most dangerous conditions.

Hadhrat Ali τsays, "In a very fast battle when the enemy was right in front of us, Rasulullaah ρ went up closest to them while the rest of us sought shelter behind him. The person in the front line is always regarded to be the bravest."[1]

During the Battle of Hunayn, the Muslims faced an army of extremely good archers. When they started raining down arrows upon the Muslim

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[1] *Ithaafus Saada* (Vol.7 Pg.141).

army, the Muslims darted around for shelter and it was only Rasulullaah ρ who stood there alone saying, "I am the Nabi without a lie and I am the son of Abdul Muttalib."[1]

Dear children! Some people believe that going to dangerous places or facing any danger is not what a pious person should do. They believe that pious people do not carry weapons, do not use weapons and never train for war. They think that facing any danger is a foolish act and that using weapons and training with them is something reserved only for violent people.

Dear friends! This belief is totally incorrect. Did the thought not cross your mind that Rasulullaah ρ was the greatest person that lived. Did he not keep weapons, learn how to use them and actually used them? He fought against the enemies and always faced up to situations of danger. He was a brave man and liked those who fought bravely against the enemies.

In short, a Hadith states that the best of people is the man who sits holding the reins of his horse and who has his ears trained to listen for any sounds of danger. As soon as he hears them, he strikes his foot against the horse and races off in search of places of danger and death.

Have you ever thought that something that Rasulullaah ρ did cannot be contrary to piety. In fact, it is itself piety.

Remember that those who say these things are really the enemies of Islaam or those who are ignorant about the life of Rasulullaah ρ and the teachings of Islam. Such people are those who never learnt or heard about what Islaam is, but who pick up and believe whatever the enemies of Islaam give them. Christianity does not favour wars and fighting because it regards these things as something contrary to piety. On at the other hand, Jihaad is an important aspect of our Deen. Where Rasulullaah ρ was sent as a mercy, he was also sent as one who fights for the Deen. This is a great difference between Islaam and Christianity. However, we should remember that we should do nothing according to how we want to do it, but we should first ask our elders.

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[1] Bukhaari (Vol.2 Pg.61).

The Guide

The wife was very angry when she said to her husband, “I am fed up with this cat! Put it in a bag and take to the forest.” The husband left with the cat but only returned very tired three days later. His wife said, “What is the matter? We were so worried! Where have you been?” Her husband replied, “I lost my way in the forest.” “And how did you find your way back?” the wife asked. The husband replied, “I followed the cat back.”

Showing a Buffalo its Calf

A man had led his buffalo into a river but could not get it out again. Someone then brought the buffaloes calf and showed it to her. When she saw her calf, the buffalo came out of the water. It so happened that another person's table had fallen into the river as well and he could not get it out. When he saw how the buffalo had been taken out of the river, he thought, "Why should I not get this table's child and show it to her?" He therefore brought a stool and showed it to the table. The table, however, did not come out. "What a hard-hearted table this must be that she will not come out even when she sees her own child? A buffalo is much better than a table."

As he stood there confused, the people standing on the bank could not stop laughing.

LESSON:

A person should always use his intelligence and not merely copy everything he sees. If a person does not know something, he should ask his elders and those who know.

Qaasim’s Fervour

“If only I was a principal!” This was Qaasim’s though as he sighed and lay on his bed. He was tired and trying to fall asleep for a long time. However, with the extreme heat of Karachi, without electricity, on the banks of a river and with the mosquitoes buzzing all about, how could he get any sleep? Lying on his bed and turning from side to side, Qaasim’s thoughts wandered far and wide.

“What a strange life have I?” he thought. “I wake up early in the morning, perform salaah, eat breakfast quickly and run away to Madrassah. Then all day, my tongue and my body have to be moving. I then have to hear the scolding of the teachers and when I get home I have to listen to what my parents and brothers have to say. It is only on Fridays that I get off and then too I have to rush away for this work or that. If I take off on any other day, I have to look like a criminal in front of the principal.

The principal, however, he has a very nice life. All day he sits comfortably on a cushion in front of a comfortable desk, relaxing all the time. He only pages through some books, speaks to visitors and orders cups and cups of tea. Whenever he wishes to take a walk through the Madrassah, he just has to get up and go. The best thing however, is that everyone respects him an fears him, whether it be the students or the teachers. How nice is his white beard on his pleasant face and how nice he looks in his long robes!? As he walks slowly through the corridors with a walking-stick in his hand, he looks like a king walking through his kingdom.

The teachers speak to him with great respect and although the children love him, they never look him straight in the eye. When he sometimes has to scold someone, even the strongest of people shiver. How nice it would be if I was a principal! Oh! How nice would it be. Oh! If only I was a principal!” With these words on his lips , Qaasim fell off to sleep.

“Tock!Tock!Tock!” The knock on the door caused Qaasim’s sleep to disappear. “What! Who is it at twelve o’clock at night?!” Qaasim called out as he looked in the dark at the round face of the clock and its two hands. “Open the door. It is me, Haamid Rahmaani.” “That is the principal’s voice!” Qaasim said as he quickly jumped out of bed and

opened the door." "As Salaamu Alaykum, son," the principal said with love. "Wa Alaykumus Salaam," Qaasim replied with surprise, "What brings you…"

Before he could complete his question, the principal said, "Son! I have to go to Islamabad on a very important business, which may take two or three days to complete. In the meantime, I want you to take my place. I trust that you would be able to fulfil the responsibilities very well.

"Yes, yes Inshaa Allaah!" Qaasim said excitedly. He was so surprised and happy that he could not say anything else. Why should he not be happy when his wish had come true? The principle then briefly told him about some of his responsibilities, and then left with Salaam. As he left, he handed over to Qaasim a large bunch of keys.

At half past seven the next morning, Qaasim was already trying out the keys to the office. As hard as he tried, he could not open the lock. He tried one key after another; once, twice three and four times but still could not get the lock opened. As the students passed by and saw him struggling, he could see smiles upon their faces. Finally, it was the Hifz teacher Qaari Abdur Rahmaan who came and said, "Qaasim, son. It is the third key from the end that will work. Try a bit harder and it will soon open."

This worked. The lock finally opened and Qaasim was able to enter. He was however very angry because Qaari Abdur Rahmaan did not address him as "principal". Just like the principle did, Qaasim went and sat on the cushions and started paging through the files in front of him. When his anger had cooled down, he called for Baba Fadhle Deen and gave him the task of going to all the classes and announcing that Qaasim is now the acting principal and that everyone should address him as "principal". After sending off the message, Qaasim decided to inspect the Hifz classes and the classes where children were learning how to read the Qur'aan.

The Principle always had a unique smile on his face wherever he went. Before entering the Hifz hall, Qaasim tried to get the same smile on his face. However, despite all his efforts he knew for himself that the smile was not the same. In fact, it looked like his mouth was skew. Standing outside the hall, he took out a mirror from his pocket and looked at his face. This face cannot demand the same respect as that of the

principal. Anyway, he put a serious and stern look on his face and entered the hall.

To his disappointment, he could feel that the children were not at all affected by his presence. In fact, they looked at him with strange glances. Qaasim was now extremely angry and thought to himself that he should expel the whole lot of them. However, as he walked through the door, he thought that if he did expel them all, no one would be left in the Madrassah because almost everyone looked at him jeeringly. As he walked on, Qaasim noticed that the teachers did not greet him. This made him even more angry.

He thought that perhaps it was because he did not have a walking stick with him. "Where shall I get a walking stick from," he thought, "If I went to buy one, the shopkeepers would asked, 'What do you need it for? Do you need to graze sheep."

He then thought further, "Even if I managed to get a walking stick, how will I get a white beard that the principle has?" Wrapped up in his thoughts, Qaasim did not notice the staircase and fell down the stairs. He rolled down the first step, then the second step, then the third... However it was really down the bed that he fell and woke up with a shock. "O dear!" Qaasim called out as he landed on the floor, "It was only a dream. I thank Allaah Y that I was not really the principal!"

Thereafter, Qaasim was very sorry and became a dedicated teacher without any thoughts of being the principal.

LESSON:

Each person should to be happy with the position in which Allaah Y has placed him and not be ungrateful. When going to school, we should not wish that we were enjoying ourselves at home like our mothers or our little brothers and sisters who may be playing on the swings. We would be unable to look after the kitchen for even an hour or two. When we are asked to do homework or to learn something for school or for Madrassah, we should never wish that we were like our elder brothers or sisters. Rather, we should devote ourselves to our studies and do our best in what we are supposed to be doing.

Masnoon Duaa
Recite the following du'aa when you hear of something sad, when you have some difficulty or when you lose something:

"To Allaah do we belong and to Him will we return."

Questions Pertaining to the Stories

Question 1: What should we do to keep Islaam strong?
Question 2: What foolish thing did the person do when his table fell into the river?
Question 3: Why was Qaasim keen to be a principal?
Question 4: Which person is regarded to be the bravest in a battle?

Allaah Y Granted me Four Qualities

When Hadhrat Qutbud Deen Bakhtiyaar Kaaki رحمه الله passed away, there was great sadness and grief amongst the people. The body was prepared for burial and taken to a large field. There was a sea of people and people could be seen as far the eye can see.

When the time arrived for the Janaazah salaah to be performed, a man stepped forward and announced, "I am the person who has to carry out the will of Hadhrat Qutbud Deen Bakhtiyaar Kaaki رحمه الله and I wish to read to you what he wanted." The people all fell silent.

"He has stated that only that person should lead his Janaazah salaah who has the following four qualities in him:

1. He must never have missed the first Takbeer for any salaah in his lifetime (he always started every salaah with the Imaam)
2. He must never have missed a single Tahajjud salaah
3. He must never have looked at a non-Mahram woman (a woman whom he is not allowed to look at) with an evil glance
4. He must never have missed the four Rakaahs Sunnah salaah before Asr"

There was a long silence before someone stepped forward and went up to the body of Hadhrat Qutbud Deen Bakhtiyaar Kaaki رحمه الله and said, "O Hadhrat Qutbud Deen Bakhtiyaar Kaaki رحمه الله! Although you have passed away, you have embarrassed me in front of all these people today. It is before all these people and knowing that Allaah Y knows and sees everything, that I take an oath in Allaah Y's name that I have all four of these qualities. This is only by the grace of Allaah Y." When the people looked at the man, they saw that it was the king Shamsud Deen Altamish.

If a king is able to lead such a life of piety, what stops shopkeepers and office workers like us from doing the same? May Allaah Y give us all the ability to do good. Aameen.

NOTE: This story tells us that when a person makes a firm intention to do good, Allaah Y opens up all the doors for him. Then even the duties of a king, of a shopkeeper or studying will not come in the way.

Another lesson is that a person should do everything for the pleasure of Allaah Y and not to show people, like the king did. When someone does anything to please people, he will receive no rewards from Allaah Y. Even though a person does things to please Allaah Y and keeps it a secret from people, Allaah Y sometimes wills that people should come to know of it and then he receives more honour and respect. We should however, never do these good deeds for this reason.

This is how an Ameer should be

A pious person once asked Hadhrat Abu Is'haaq Ibraheem رحمه الله, "Hadhrat! I wish to travel with you." Hadhrat Abu Is'haaq رحمه الله accepted the man's request and said, "However, one of us will have to be the Ameer (leader) so that everything runs smoothly." "Then you must be the Ameer," the man said. To this, Hadhrat Abu Is'haaq رحمه الله said to the man, "Then you must obey me."

The man relates the story further. He says, "Whenever we reached a stop, Hadhrat Abu Is'haaq رحمه الله would tell me to sit down and then fetch water himself. Because it was winter, he would gather the firewood himself, light a fire and do all the other work. He however never gave me permission to help him because the condition was that he would give the instructions and I should obey them.

When heavy rain fell on the journey, he took off his shawl and held it over me all through the night so that I would not get wet. Although I was very embarrassed about this, I could do nothing because of our agreement.

The following morning, I told him that I was now the Ameer. 'That's fine,' he replied. However, when we reached the next stop, he again took all the work upon himself. 'Why are you disobeying the Ameer?' I asked. He replied, 'Disobedience is when one tells the Ameer to serve himself.' He then behaved like this throughout the long journey to Makkah Mu'azzamah. When we eventually reached, I was so embarrassed by the wonderful manner in which he treated me that I ran away from him. He however saw me in Mina and said, "Son! One should show love for a friend just as I had done for you."[1]

Remember that when we serve people with a sincere intention and always have the fervour to do so, we will attain a high status and pride will not overcome us. We should be ready to serve our parents, our brothers and our sisters without them asking us. We must also listen to what our teachers have to say and whenever anyone such as our grandparents, uncles or aunts ask us to do anything, we must be ready to do so. We should also treat our little brothers and sisters well. By doing all of this, we will win the happiness and du'aas of all.

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[1] Taken from *Makhzane Alkhlaaq*.

Policeman (calling out to a cyclist): Stop! Stop! You have no lights!"
Cyclist: Out of my way! I have no brakes as well."

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 22: Who was the Sahabi τ who was very particular about encouraging people to do good and forbidding people from evil?

Question 23: Who was the Sahabi τ who was eating grapes out of season while he was imprisoned by the Kuffaar?

Question 24: Who was the Sahabi τ who felt the presence of the angels while reciting the Qur'aan, because of which his horse started to skip about?

Question 25: Who was the Sahabiyah lady رضي الله عنها who was known as "Ahad"?

Question 26: Who was the Sahabiyah lady رضي الله عنها who was the sister of Hadhrat Umar τ and whom Hadhrat Umar τ hit because she had accepted Islaam and was learning the Qur'aan?

Question 27: To which of his relatives رضي الله عنها did Rasulullaah ρ give the gold chain he received as a gift from Najaashi?

Question 28: Which Sahabi τ paid for the land upon which the Masjidun Nabawi was built?

Advice filled with Wisdom

Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ reports that a man once came to Rasulullaah ρ and asked, "Please give me some advice and tell me of something that is not too difficult." To this, Rasulullaah ρ replied, "Do not lose your temper." When the man again asked for advice, Rasulullaah ρ again told him, "Never lose your temper."[1]

ADVICE:
In the light of the above Hadith, we learn that we should never become angry with anyone for no reason and never become so angry that we lose our tempers. Especially when it concerns our parents and elders, we should make sure that we show them a lot of respect. When a person loses his temper, he commits many sins and disobeys Allaah Y whereas the object of a person's life is to attain the pleasure of Allaah Y. In another Hadith, Rasulullaah ρ said, "A brave person is not one who floors another in wrestling, but a truly brave person is one who controls his temper."[2]

We should therefore control of our tempers no matter what situation we may be in. If we make this a habit while we are young, it will remain within us even when we grow up. The benefits of this are so great that we can never calculate them.

[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.433).
[2] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.433).

The Consequences of False Claims

A cowardly soldier once returned home and started to relate to the people stories of his bravery. He told them that in one of the battles, he single-handedly got hold of another soldier, twisted his arm and broke it. Someone then asked him, “Dear brother! How nice it would have been if you had broken his neck instead.” The soldier said, “His head was already cut of by then. It was afterwards that I broke off his arm.” The people listening to him then laughed loudly because they realised that the soldier was really not brave, but a coward.

NOTE: Although bravery and courage are excellent qualities, one should never boast about them. A person should really be concerned about the condition of his Deen because Allaah Y gives honour to a person who practices on Deen. Therefore, instead of making false claims, we should rather be concerned about doing good deeds.

The tolerance of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله

While he was busy teaching, a man once came up to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and started to swear him. when his students wanted to respond to the man, Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله stopped them. Neither did he allow them to respond, nor did he say anything himself. After the lesson was complete and he was going home, the foolish man followed him home and continued swearing at him. When he reached the door of his house, Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله turned to the man and said, "This is the door to my house. If you have anything left to say, please say it now so that nothing is left in your heart." The man was embarrassed when he heard this and could give no reply. Because Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was an expert in the knowledge of Deen, he knew that it is not to correct to reply to swearing by swearing back.

LESSON:

Dear children! Neither did Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله become upset by what the man was saying, nor did he say anything back to him. He rather practised tolerance because had he said anything, he would have become more upset and the man would also have become angrier and said many more hurtful things. The behaviour of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله rather made the man embarrassed of himself. We should also do the same. If any person becomes angry with us for no reason, we should also remain silent and not make matters worse by arguing. Our elders say, "Silence can defeat a hundred people."

General knowledge

Some old books mention that three of the most intelligent women of the past were:

1. The wife of the Egyptian minister
2. The daughter Hadhrat Shu'ayb υ
3. The wife of Fir'oun.

What Allaah Y says:

1. "When a person is patient and forgives, then this is from the most strongest of deeds."[1]
2. "O people with Imaan! Save yourselves and your families from the fire of Jahannam."[2]

What Rasulullaah ρ says:

1. "Exchange gifts with each other because this will make love grow between you."[3]
2. "When a person stands up for salaah, the doors of Jannah are opened for him."[4]
3. "Do not laugh too much because this makes the heart die and removes light from the face."[5]

[1] Surah Shura.
[2] Surah Tahreem.
[3] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.403).
[4] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.121) – 18963.
[5] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.415).

Blessings in Movement

This is a true and tested saying of the elders. If you think about it, you will realise that whenever something keeps moving, it remains alive. The cells in your body are always moving and dying, while new cells are always being formed and replacing them. This is how the system of life and death carries on and is a natural occurrence. When the body remains in motion, old cells die and new cells are formed. In this way, the body becomes healthy and remains healthy. If the body is no longer in motion, it becomes lazy.

Dear children! Movement is the name of life. Man should keep moving, no matter what part of life he may be in and always have a spark of youth (he should do everything with energy and courage).

We should start every day with movement by doing exercises like running, swimming, riding horses and playing sports that are within the limits of the Shari'ah. All this must be done with the intention of gaining good health so that we can have strength to worship Allaah Y, to do the works of Deen and to prepare for Jihaad. This will, of course, help in so many other aspects of our lives.

You must also ensure that you eat fruit. Eat whatever fruit is available and instead of asking for toffee, sweets, cakes and biscuits, rather ask your parents for fruit when they ask you what you would like to have to eat.

The Intelligence of Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ

Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ reports from Rasulullaah ρ that two ladies once came to Hadhrat Dawood υ. They had one child with them. Both of them claimed that the child was hers and that a wolf had eaten the other woman's child. Hadhrat Dawood υ decided that the child belonged to the elder of the two.

They left and were passing by Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ when he asked them what the matter was. When they explained the story to him, he asked someone to fetch a knife, saying that he was now going to cut the child in two and give a part to each of them. "Are you going to kill the child?" the younger lady asked. "I am," Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ replied. "Then rather give the child to her," she said. Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ then said, "Then this must be your child." He then gave the child to her.[1]

NOTE: The real mother did not want any harm to come to her child because her life, her time, her health and all her efforts are with the child. She was even prepared to suffer difficulty for the sake of her child. This was exactly how Rasulullaah ρ felt for his Ummah. May Allaah Y also grant us the same concern for the Ummah. We must at least make the intention that we will not give up any Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ and will not allow others to be unaware of them.

[1] Bukhaari (Vol.1 Pg.487).

Treating Animals Kindly

Just as Islaam has given rights to people, Islaam also gives rights to animals. When an animal is not harmful, it must never be given any difficulty for no reason. In fact, even when an animal is being slaughtered, it must be slaughtered in a way that gives it as little pain as possible. Rasulullaah ρ gave the command that the knife must be made very sharp (but must not be sharpened in front of the animal) and that the animal must be made as comfortable as possible.[1]

It pleases Allaah Y when we are merciful towards animals, when we look after them well and make life comfortable for them. In fact, we will be rewarded for this as well.

Killing Harmful Animals

It is regarded as a good deed to kill all those animals that are harmful to people and killing them will earn rewards. Animals of this type are snakes, scorpions, etc.

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ was once delivering a lecture when he saw a snake on the wall. He stopped the lecture and hit the snake with his staff. He then said, "I heard Rasulullaah ρ saying that the person who kills a snake is like a person who kills a Mushrik who deserves to be executed."[2]

A person will also be rewarded for killing a chameleon. We must however remember that even when killing harmful animals, we must do so in a manner that gives them the least difficulty.[3]

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.358).
[2] *Hayaatus Sahabah* ψ (Vol.3 Pg.710).
[3] *Ahsanul Fataawaa* Vol 8 and *Fataawaa Mahmoodiyyah* Vol 4.

Cruelty

There was a man called Maahta who was the only professor of botany in India. He was the rector of the Agra College and the son of a farmer from Siyalkhot. His parents worked very hard and went through many difficulties for him to complete school. Thereafter, they got a scholarship for him to study further and eventually he even received a PhD from London. He later married a woman from a wealthy Hindu family.

He however stayed far from his parents, but their love for him could not keep them far any more. They decided to travel from Siyalkhot to Agra where he was the rector of the college. He was sitting in his mansion when he saw his parents arrive, but quickly gave orders to the doorman not to let them in. They were then forced to leave the place with great sorrow and heartache.

It then happened that a boy from a very wealthy Hindu family had a problem with the professor and told a butcher to lie in wait for the professor and to beat him up with a stick as soon as he reached home after returning from the college. The butcher did as he was told and beat the professor senseless.

Despite all the medical treatment that the government tried, nothing could be done for the professor. Eventually, he was left crawling through the streets of Agra, begging from the people because together with the attack paralysing him, it also made him insane.

NOTE: Look, dear children! Rasulullaah ρ told us that while Allaah Y forgives all sins, but when a person hurts his parents, Allaah Y will punish him in this world before he dies.[1] Look at how this professor was punished because he shoved his parents away after receiving wealth and position.

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.421).

The Neighbour

Hadhrat Abu Hamzah Sukri رحمه الله was a famous narrator of Ahadeeth. "*Sukkur*" means sweetness in Arabic and it is written that he was given this title because his manner of speaking was very pleasant and very sweet. Whoever heard is talks was captivated by them.

He lived in a certain part of Baghdad. One day, he decided to leave the area and move somewhere else and had almost sold his house when the people heard about this. They got together and sent some men to speak to him not to move. They begged him to stay, but he explained to them his reasons. They then decided that they would put their money together and pay him the price for his house so that he could stay and remain their neighbour. When he saw that they were sincere, he cancelled his plans to move.

NOTE: Look at how some people are so well liked because of their excellent character and because they do good only to please Allaah Y and not to please the people. Rasulullaah ρ said that Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ told him so much about the rights of neighbours that he thought that the neighbour would even receive a share of inheritance.[1]

[1] Bukhaari (Vol.2 Pg.889), as quoted in *Ma'aariful Qur'aan* (Vol.2 Pg.412).

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 29: Who was the Sahabi τ whose eyesight was so good that when he shot an arrow, it would hit the target even at night?

Question 30: There was a Sahabi τ who was very particular about the Sunnah practices of Rasulullaah ρ and because he acted on every verse before learning another, it took him eight years to learn Surah Baqarah. He also freed a thousand slaves, perform Hajj seventy times and performed Umrah a thousand times. Who was this great Sahabi τ?

Question 31: Who was the Sahabi τ whom Rasulullaah ρ told that he had been given the sweet voice of Hadhrat Dawood υ?

Question 32: Who was the Sahabi τ for whom Rasulullaah ρ made du'aa that he should be good in calculations and in writing and that Allaah Y should save him from punishment? He was also one who wrote down the Qur'aan.

Question 33: Who were the two Sahabah ψ about whom Rasulullaah ρ said that he loved them most from his family, that they are two flowers in this world and shall be the leaders of the young men of Jannah?

Question 34: Who was the Sahabi τ who was very wise and who passed judgements with great justice?

Question 35: Rasulullaah ρ once made the announcement that he would guarantee Jannah for the person who can guarantee him that he will never ask anything from anyone. One Sahabi τ then stood up. Who was this Sahabi τ? This was the same Sahabi τ whom a lion guided when he once got lost.

Blowing your Own Trumpet

"Listen dear friends! Because I give the best speech, I should be the first to speak because people can have a lot of pleasure from hearing me. Thereafter, they can suffer the difficulty of listening to the rest of you." These were Aslam's words as he sat on a platform and spoke to his friends. They were however not convinced because they knew Aslam well. Aslam however continued singing his own praises.

The Jalsah was to take place that Friday and Aslam was stuffed with pride as the others prepared themselves. The person in charge did decide to let Aslam speak first and so he stepped up on the stage. He took the microphone in his hand and took a deep breath. The audience was very large and it seemed as if the entire town had gathered. Looking at all the people and his father sitting in front, Aslam got a fright and forgot his entire speech. Perspiration streamed down his face as he managed to mumble a few words, but the people started to boo him off the stage.

He was embarrassed and the people started to leave. Even the other boys who were going to take part were upset with Aslam because the people had left without even listening to them. As Aslam left with his head down, the others said to each other, "He kept blowing his own trumpet and now see what he achieved?"

NOTE: Remember that whatever favour Allaah Y gives you is from Him and not because of any good that you have. You must therefore never think that you are better than others because this will do you a lot of harm.

Advising Others while Disgracing yourself

"Come here Umar," Aatif the bigger brother said, "Go and buy me two Paans." Aatif then gave Umar some money and the boy left for the shop. Although Aatif was only two years elder than Umar, he ordered the boy around and would even make him do what he wanted when the little boy was busy playing.

Umar did complain to his father. "Father," he said, "Aatif scares me for no reason. I was just eating betel nuts the other day when he started to shout at me, but he sends me to buy Paan for him."

"Aatif! Aatif!" father called "Yes father," Aatif said as he came along. "I hear that you keep commanding Umar about and shout at him without reason. He is your younger brother and you must look after him." "And what about the Paan, father," Umar whispered to his father. "Oh yes!" the father said, "Do you think that it is right for you to scold him for eating betel nuts when you are eating Paan? Although eating both things is not right, how can you advise others when you are yourself guilty?"

After father had scolded Aatif very severely, Aatif was sorry and apologised. Umar was happy that Aatif would not longer act like a boss.

Father then called for Umar and said, "According to the Hadith[1], your elder brother is almost like your father. If he gives you any advice, you have no need to become angry, but you have to listen to him with respect. Do you understand?"

"Yes father," Umar said, "I will always remember that."

NOTE: Every child should understand that if he is an elder child, he must not order his younger brothers and sisters about for no good reason. If he is a younger child and his elder brothers or sisters tell him something, he must not feel bad about it and must listen to them respectfully.

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.421).

Sympathy

A dove was once sitting all alone on a tree beside a river. She was always alone and wished for a friend to talk with and to play with. As she looked about, she saw a little ant on the river bank trying to drink some water. As much as she tried, the ant was unable to drink any water because the flow of the water was too strong for her. However, she tried again and again without giving up hope.

The dove eventually felt sorry for the ant and decided to help her. As she looked about, a plan formed in her mind and she broke off a leaf from the tree. She flew down and placed the leaf beside the ant. The ant clung on to the leaf and when the wind blew the leaf to the edge of the water, the ant was on it. The ant looked at the dove with great love and the two the became the best of friends.

LESSON:

We learn from this story that we must always help others in need. In this way, the person we help will be a friend and when the news spreads, others will also be encouraged to help people. Rasulullaah ρ said, "Allaah Y will help a person as long as he helps his brother."[1]

When we help someone wherever we can, the instant benefit of this is that Allaah Y will be pleased and will help us as well.

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[1] Abu Dawood (Vol.2 Pg.314).

You Ought to Know…

What Deeds can we do to earn the reward of Hajj?

There are certain deeds that will earn us the reward of Hajj. Allaah Y's mercy is searching for people to shower itself upon. We must however remember that even after doing these deeds, Hajj will still be Fardh for a person when he or she has the means to perform Hajj.

1. Performing Umrah during Ramadhaan earns the reward of Hajj.[1] Rasulullaah ρ said that those performing Hajj and Umrah are present in the court of Allaah Y and when they make du'aa to Allaah Y, the du'aa is accepted and when they ask for forgiveness, forgiveness is granted.[2]
2. Looking at your parents with love earns the reward of an accepted Hajj. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ reports that Rasulullaah ρ said, "When a person who treats his parents well look at them with affection, Allaah Y writes for him the reward of an accepted Hajj for every glance he takes." The Sahabah ψ then asked, "Even though he looks at them a hundred times every day?" "Yes," Rasulullaah ρ replied, "Allaah Y is Great and Pure (none can stop Allaah Y from giving as much as He wills)."[3]
3. The Ishraaq salaah earns the reward of Hajj. Ishraaq salaah is that salaah which is performed approximately ten minutes after sunrise. After the sun rises and becomes so bright that you cannot look at it, the time for the Ishraaq salaah begins. This salaah consists of at least two Rakaahs. It is best (not compulsory) that a person remains sitting in his place after performing the Fajr salaah and continues making Dhikr or reciting the Qur'aan until the sun rises. When the sun rises higher, he should then perform the Ishraaq salaah.

   Hadhrat Anas τ reports from Rasulullaah ρ that when a person performs Fajr salaah with Jamaa'ah, remains where he is, makes

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[1] Ibn Maajah Pg.221.
[2] Ibn Maajah Pg. 213.
[3] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.421).

Dhikr and then perform two Rakaahs (Ishraaq) salaah after the sun rises, he will receive the reward of performing Hajj and Umrah.[1]

4. Another Hadith tells us that when a person performs wudhu and then leaves for the Masjid (to perform salaah), he is like a person who enters into Ihraam and leaves for Hajj.[2]

Important Words of Important People

- In matters of this world, look at those who have less wealth than yourself so that you do not become jealous
- Our own mistakes will tell us more than any library will
- Never lose hope if you wish to reach your destination
- No enemy is worse than a bad habit
- A person's mind is that treasure in which there are both precious and useless things
- To keep your friendship strong, meet your friend only now and again
- A wise enemy is better than a foolish friend

[1] *Targheeb* (Vol.1 Pg.164).
[2] *Fadhaa'ile A'maal* Pg.337.

Of What Use is it to Regret when the Birds have Already Eaten the Crops?

"Gido, son! You have played enough. Come and learn now because it will soon be exams!" Gido's mother called out. Gido was in the eighth grade and loved to play. When his parents explained to him that playtime is playtime and that work should be done on its time, he brushed them off and carried on playing.

When March arrived, the time for exams also arrived. Because Gido wasted all his time playing, he did not prepare for the exams. As a result, he was unable to answer any question paper properly and even left many questions unanswered.

Whenever he came back home and his parents ask how the paper was, he would say, "It was fine" and then go off to his room. "I think that it was not fine," his father said to his mother. "I think so too," she agreed.

When the results were given and Gido went to receive his report card, he discovered that he had failed. With a sad face, Gido returned home and went straight to his room, where he started to cry.

"What is the matter, Gido?" his mother asked. She then took the report card from his hand and was very upset to see that he had failed. She said, "I had always been telling you to concentrate on your studies but you would not listen. Of what use is it to cry now?"

His father then arrived and when he saw Gido crying, he said, "Gido! You would never have seen this day if you had studied."

Of What Use is it to Regret when the Birds have Already Eaten the Crops?

This Urdu saying means that when a farmer does not take precautions to stop birds from eating the new crops, it is useless to regret after the birds have already eaten everything up.

Dear children! We learn from Gido’s story that to save ourselves from embarrassment, we must do our work every day so that we remember it.

Calamity or Result?

Reading a letter, a man says to his foolish servant, “Oh dear! Fadhl Baba! What a tragedy! My friend’s heart has failed!”

“Don’t worry,” Fadhl Baba replied, “I’m sure it will pass next year.”

The Camel has now Come Beneath the Mountain

Many animals lived in a little forest. There were lions, monkeys, foxes, deers and many others. There was however no elephant. The buffalo was the great bully and made them all serve him. Because he was the most powerful of them all, they were all afraid of him. Because of his strength, the buffalo regarded all the other creatures to be like insects in front of him.

One day, all the animals gathered around the fox. They asked him for a plan that would stop the oppression of the buffalo. Addressing all the animals, the Fox said, "This will only be possible when the buffalo sees someone more powerful and more dangerous than himself. At the moment, he sees himself as the most powerful creature and therefore will not stop his oppression."

"Is there an animal more powerful than the buffalo?" the deer asked. To this, the fox replied, "Silly lady! Don't you know that there are no elephants in our forest. The day elephant arrives, the Buffalo will meet his match." After that, all at the animals started to make du'aa to Allaah Y to send an elephant to the forest.

One day, as the animals were discussing the oppression of the buffalo, they heard the trumpeting of an elephant. They all looked to see where the sound was coming from and started to run in that direction. There they saw a large elephant standing before them. At the beginning, all the animals were frightened but it was the fox who mustered up some courage and approached the elephant and welcomed him to the forest. He then explained to the elephant what the buffalo was doing. The elephant said, "The buffalo is only oppressing you all because he regards himself to be the largest and most powerful of you. When I come before him, he will know what strength really is."

Saying this, the elephant proceeded with all the animals to see the buffalo. When the buffalo set sight on the elephant, he lowered his head. All the animals were happy and thanked Allaah Y for sending the elephant. It was then that the fox said, "The camel has now come beneath the mountain." The buffalo then saw it best to leave the forest.

NOTE: Dear children! The camel is also a tall creature and regards itself to be the tallest of all of Allaah Y's creation. However, when it passes beneath a mountain and looks up, it realises that Allaah Y has also created something taller. It is therefore improper to regard oneself as being perfect and most powerful and to take advantage of others because of this.

In the same way, we should also not harm or hurt our classmates, our little brothers and sisters and the other weak children in the neighbourhood. We will only realise the error of our ways when we are taken to task by the teacher, our parents or an elder in the neighbourhood. It is on that day that the camel will realise that he is standing beneath a mountain.

Something for nothing

"I see no benefit in selling eggs," Ghaalib said to his friend. "But there are so many people making an excellent profit with eggs. Why are you not successful?" his friend asked. Ghaalib explained, "When I bought the eggs at a certain price, I found out the next day that the price had dropped. I therefore had to sell the eggs at a loss."

"You see," his friend said, "This must be the first time that you are doing this. You have no experience in selling eggs." "That's right," Ghaalib said, "It is actually the first time that I am doing this."

"Tell me what you do with the boxes and straw in which the eggs come packed?" his friend asked him. Ghaalib answered, "I throw them away." "That is the problem!" his friend said, "You should be selling both the boxes and the straw for a good price." "And how will I do that?" Ghaalib said in surprise.

"Dear brother!" his friend said, "There are many people who need the boxes and the straw for different needs. Now why don't you buy the eggs from the big market at wholesale price and then sell the boxes and the straw separately. I shall introduce you to someone who will pay you well for these. Just remember that it is something for nothing." His friend then explained to him the details and he was very pleased.

NOTE: Dear children! We are also able to earn many things for nothing. For example, we should do not waste the left over spending money we have but should rather save it. Then, for example, if our parents happen to buy us something like a bicycle on some occasion and we wish to have something extra, we will have this money to buy a bell, a light or something else for the bicycle. In this way, we will have something extra and will not have to cause more expenses for our parents. Similarly, if the newspaper is delivered to us every day or if we have bread for breakfast, we should collect the rubber bands that come with these. As time goes by, you will have a large collection of rubber bands and you may use them for whatever you need them for, without having to buy them. Otherwise, we can pack them nicely in a packet or box and sell them to someone. In this way we have made something for nothing.

Questions Pertaining to the Stories

Question 1: What advice did Rasulullaah ρ give to someone?
Question 2: What benefits are attached to exercises?
Question 3: What must we remember when slaughtering an animal?
Question 4: What deeds will earn us the reward of performing Hajj?
Question 5: Use an example to explain the saying, "The camel has now come beneath the mountain."

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 36: Who was the Sahabi τ who announced that he knew how many people 'the men of the cave' were?
Question 37: Who was the Sahabi τ whose Janaazah salaah Rasulullaah ρ performed seventy times because Rasulullaah ρ loved him so much?
Question 38: When Rasulullaah ρ paired off the Muhaajireen and the Ansaar as brothers, who was the Sahabi τ in whose house Rasulullaah ρ gathered them all?
Question 39: Who was the Sahabi τ who was well known for being like Hadhrat Isa υ by staying away from pleasures?
Question 40: From the neighbours of Rasulullaah ρ who harmed him in Makkah, all but one died as Mushrikeen. Who was the one fortunate person?
Question 41: Who was the person who conquered India at the age of seventeen?
Question 42: Who was the Sahabi τ who was known for running faster than a horse and whose voice could be heard five miles away? It was also him who thrice took a pledge at Rasulullaah ρ's hand at Hudaybiyyah that he would fight the Kuffaar to the death.

The Time has now come, Dear Daughter!

Hadhrat Maalik bin Dinaar رحمه الله was a famous saint. He was however not a pious person in the beginning, so someone once asked him what his story was. He said, "I was a policeman when I was young. I however loved wine very much and would drink a lot. A daughter was born to me and she was a lovely child. I was very fond of her and she was also very fond of me. When this baby daughter began to walk and talk, I loved her even more and she remained with me all the time. The child however had a strange habit. Whenever she saw a glass of wine in my hands, she would snatch it away and spill it on my clothes. Because I loved her so, I did not scold her. My child however died when she was two years old and I was very heart-broken.

On the night of the fifteenth of Sha'baan, I was again drunk and went to sleep without performing my Isha salaah. I had a most horrible dream, in which I saw that it was the Day of Resurrection, with men coming out of graves, and I was one of those who were being driven to the Place of Assembly (Maidaan-e-Hashr). I heard the noise of something following me and when I looked back, I saw a huge snake chasing me. It was already close behind. It was a most horrible sight. The snake had blue catlike eyes, its mouth was wide open and it was rushing towards me, most furiously!

As I ran in fright to save my life, the horrible snake still ran after me and was coming closer all the time. I saw an old man, dressed in lovely clothes and wearing lovely perfumes. I greeted him saying, 'As Salaamu Alaykum' and he returned my greetings. I said, "For the sake of Allaah Y, help me in my misery." He said, "I am too weak to help you against such a strong enemy. You must go on running; perhaps you may find some help to save you from it".

As I ran, I saw a cliff in front of me and climbed it, but on reaching its top, I saw the raging Fire of Jahannam beyond it, with its most horrifying sights. I was so terrified by the snake that I ran on towards Jahannam. Meanwhile, I heard a voice calling aloud, 'Get back, for, you are not one of the people of Jahannam'. I came away and began to run in the opposite direction. The snake also turned around and came after me. I saw, again, the white-robed old man and said to him, 'Old man, can't you save me from this snake. I asked you before, but you did not

help me'. The man began to cry and said, 'I am too weak to help you against such a mighty snake, but I can tell you that there is a hill nearby where they keep the 'sacred trusts' of the Muslims. If you go up that hill, you might find something of yours, kept in trust, which might save you from the snake.' I rushed towards the hill, which was round in shape, with a large number of open windows with curtains. The windows had golden shutters studded with rich rubies, and most precious jewels. On each shutter hung a curtain made of the rarest silk.

When I was going to climb the hill, the angels called aloud, 'Open the windows and raise the curtains and come outside! Here is an unfortunate man in misery. Perhaps one of you is his trust, who may help him in his distress.' The windows opened at once, the curtains went up, and out came a number of innocent children, with faces bright as the full moon. By this time I had lost all hope because the snake was very close to me. The children called their friends, 'Come out quickly all of you, for the snake has come very close to him'.

Hearing this, more children came out of the windows in large crowds and among them I saw my own dear daughter who had died some time ago. When she saw me, she began to weep and said, 'By Allaah Y! He is my own dear father'. She jumped on a swinging cradle, which seemed to be made from heavenly light (Noor) and flew across to me. Next moment, she was standing by my side and I took her to my chest. She lifted her left hand towards me and with her right hand motioned the snake away. The snake went away immediately. Then she gave me a seat and sat in my lap and began to stroke my beard with her right hand saying, 'My dear father,

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَن تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ

'Has not the time come for the Believers (who commit sins) that their hearts should submit in all humility to the remembrance of Allaah Y and to the truth which is revealed!'[1]

With tears in my eyes, I asked her, 'My daughter, do all of you know the meanings of the Qur'an?' She replied, 'We understand the Noble Qur'an even better than you.' I asked her, 'My dear child, what was this snake?' She said, 'It was your own evil deeds which you had made so strong that it was about to push you into Jahannam.' I asked, 'And who

[1] Surah Hadeed, verse 16.

was that old man with the white clothes?’ She replied, ‘He was your good deeds that you had made so weak with your few good deeds that he could not help you against the snake (although he did show you how to escape)’ I asked, ‘What are all of you doing on this hill?’ She replied, ‘We are the children of Muslims who died as children. We shall live here till the Day of Qiyaamah, waiting to be reunited with you when you come to us at last and we shall intercede for you with our Allaah Y.’”

I then woke up from the dream, with the fright (of the snake) still heavy on my heart. I turned to Allah in repentance as soon as I arose and put a stop to my evil ways.

NOTE: Dear children! See how Allaah Y changed the life of Hadhrat Maalik رحمه الله. This story tells us about the conditions in the Aakhirah so that we may see what we are doing in this world. We should always carry out good deeds and if we do anything wrong, we should immediately ask Allaah Y for forgiveness. This world will pass us by and it is only good deeds that will help us in the Aakhirah.

We must at least make two intentions today. Firstly, we must remind every person we meet that he must remember Allaah Y. Secondly, we must always ask Allaah Y for forgiveness and also remind others to do the same.

The Imaan of a Little Boy

There was a king who lived a long time ago. When his magician became old, he approached the king and requested him to send someone to him so that he could teach him magic. The king wanted someone to continue the practice after the old magician, so he sent a boy to take lessons from the magician.

Whenever the boy came to the magician, he had to pass by a Christian monk, who believed in Hadhrat Isa υ. During those days, the Deen of Hadhrat Isa υ was the true Deen and the monk was a pious man who did not do the evils that the other people did.

It once occurred that a lion blocked the path and prevented people from passing. When the boy arrived there, he thought to himself that this would be the ideal opportunity to test whether the magician or the monk was better. He therefore picked up a stone and prayed, "O Allaah! If the way of the monk is more beloved to you, than the way of the magician, then kill this beast with this stone so that people may pass." Consequently, when he threw the stone at the creature, the stone killed it instantly and people were able to pass by peacefully.

The people were surprised and the boy became famous. When a blind man heard about the boy, he went to him and asked him to cure him of his blindness. The boy said, "I cannot cure anyone. Only Allaah Y can cure. However, if you believe in Allaah Y, I will pray to Allaah Y and He will cure you." When the man became a Muslim, Allaah Y restored his sight.

When the king heard about this, he arrested the monk, the blind man and the boy. He then killed the monk and the blind man and had the boy taken to certain mountain from where he told his men to throw the boy down. However, all the king's men fell to their deaths and the boy returned alone to the king.

The king then sent him with another party of men, instructing them to take him by ship to the middle of the ocean and to throw him overboard. Again, all the king's men were drowned and the boy returned alone to the king.

The boy then told the king that he would be able to kill him only by shooting an arrow at him while saying, "In the name of the Rabb of this boy." The king did as he was told. He gathered thousands of people, placed the arrow in the bow and shot it saying, "In the name of the Rabb of this boy." Seeing this, the people cried out, "We believe in the Rabb of this boy!"

The king was now worried because whereas he had killed one person, there were now thousands more. After discussing with important men of his kingdom, the king then instructed his soldiers to dig trenches and to fill the trenches with fire. Thereafter, he told them to throw in the fires all those who refused to give up their Imaan. In this way, many people were burnt to death. Not long thereafter, Allaah Y destroyed the king and all his men.

NOTE: Look at how one boy gave his soul over to the Creator of souls and became an invitation to Imaan for so many others. One person sacrificed his life for the life of so many others. Do we even have the courage to have our finger cut to be called a martyr? What can we do for our Deen? The least we can sacrifice is to make sure that we do not break even a single command of the Deen and also make sure that we call people towards this Deen and towards carrying out every Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ.

A Pious Child

Dear children! Hammaad is a pious child who is only five years old. Although he is still not in Madrassah, he has learnt many good things from his mother that even bigger children do not know.

Before he goes to bed, Hammaad listens to the good stories that his mother tells him, tries his best to understand them, asks questions if necessary and when he is satisfied, he becomes extremely happy. He has also leant many Masnoon du'aas. The first he learnt was the du'aa for sleeping, which is:

اللَّهُمّ بِاسْمِكَ أَمُوتُ وَ أَحْيَ

"O Allaah! With Your name do I die and come back to life"[1]

Hammaad has also learnt many other du'aas such as the du'aa for eating, for drinking milk, for wearing new clothing, for entering and leaving the Masjid, for entering and leaving the toilet and many others. Although he does not know the meanings of all these du'aas, he becomes very happy when he reads them because he knows that he has done a good deed and that it makes Allaah Y happy.

Dear children! We get real happiness when we make Allaah Y happy.

When visitors come to Hammaad's house, his mother calls him and says, "Tell the visitors the du'aa for seeing the new moon and the du'aa for walking in the marketplace." Hammaad then recites these du'aas very fluently and the guests become happy and surprised to know that such a little boy knows what they do not know.

Dear children! You should also learn all these du'aas and recite them when the occasion arises. It is only then that you will remember them.

Hammaad also loves to hear words and stories of Rasulullaah ρ. He is always asking his father to tell him such stories and after hearing them, his heart wishes to do what Rasulullaah ρ did. Whenever he does something wrong, his father tells him something about Rasulullaah ρ and he immediately realises what wrong he has done and does the

[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.208).

right thing. In fact, his father never has to scold or hit him because he does what they want without them having to ask.

He was once eating something and, without realising, he took the food in his left hand and ate from the centre of the plate. To explain this to him, his father told him a story. He said, "There was once a little boy called Umar bin Abu Salamah. He was once eating with Rasulullaah ρ and using his left hand. Rasulullaah ρ advised him saying, "Recite Bismillaah, use your right hand and eat from that which is in front of you."[1]

Hammaad listened carefully to what his father was saying. He even asked his father to repeat it so that he could learn it well. He then remembered it every time he sat down to eat and also narrated it to his friends when he saw that they were not eating correctly.

NOTE: Now children! Who will try to do everything he has learnt? The name Hammaad means a person who praises Allaah Y very much. We must also be people who praise Allaah Y very often and follow all the Sunnah practices of Rasulullaah ρ. We must teach our brothers and sister the du'aas we have learnt such as the du'aa for eating, for drinking milk, for entering and leaving the toilet, etc.

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.363).

The Martyrdom of Hadhrat Mus’ab bin Umayr τ

Hadhrat Mus’ab bin Umayr τ had been brought up with great love and affection by his wealthy parents. Before becoming a Muslim, he lived in luxury and comfort. It is said that he was the most well dressed youth in Makkah. In fact, his parents would buy him outfits worth two hundred Dirhams. He became a Muslim in the early days of Islaam, without his parents knowing. When they came to know of it, they tied him with a rope and compelled him to stay at home. He got an opportunity to escape and emigrated to Abyssinia.

On return from Abyssinia, he emigrated again to Madinah. So a person like him, brought up in luxury and comfort, was now living a simple and hard life. Rasulullaah ρ was once sitting with the Sahabah ψ when Hadhrat Mus’ab τ passed in front of him. He had only one sheet of cloth to clothe his body, and this also had many patches. One of the patches was of leather. With tears in his eyes, Rasulullaah ρ spoke about Hadhrat Mus’ab τ's life of luxury before Islaam.

In the battle of Uhud, Hadhrat Mus’ab τ held the flag of Islam. When the Muslims started to suffer defeat and were running about in confusion, he held the flag and stood at his post like a rock. An enemy came and cut his hand with a sword, so that the flag might fall and the defeat might be accomplished. He at once took the flag in the other hand. The enemy then cut the other hand also. He held the flag to his chest with the help of his bleeding arms. The enemy at last pierced his body with an arrow. Only then did he fall dead and with him fell the flag that he had not allowed to fall while he was alive. Another Muslim ran and took over the flag.

At the time of his burial, he had only one sheet to cover his body. This sheet was too short for his size. When it was pulled to cover the head, the feet would be exposed, and when it was pulled to cover the feet, the head would become uncovered. Rasulullaah ρ said: "Cover his head with the sheet, and his feet with Idhkhir grass."[1]

Such was the end of the youngster who was brought up in luxury and comfort. The person who used to wear clothing worth two hundred Dirhams does not have sufficient cloth to cover his dead body! Look

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[1] *Fadhaa’ile A’maal* Pg.87 and *Isaabah* (Vol.3 Pg.421).

with what courage he tried to keep the flag up and did not allow it to fall till he was killed/martyred. This is the miracle of Imaan. Once Imaan gets into a person, it makes him forget everything else, whether it is wealth, luxury or life itself.

May Allaah Y grant us the ability to follow in the footsteps of the Sahabah ψ and to also make sacrifices for the Deen. We make du'aa also that Allaah Y fills all their graves with Noor. Aameen.

Fervour for Hajj

Hadhrat Moulana Sultaan Mahmood Sahib رحمه الله was the Ustaadh of Hadhrat Mufti Rasheed Ahmad Ludhyaanwi Sahib رحمه الله. He always taught without ever asking for a salary. He once related his story saying, "I was a student of Deen still studying the book *Kaafiya* when I suddenly had the fervour to go for Hajj. I therefore stopped my studies and left on foot for Makkah without any provisions. After a few days, I ended up in a forest at night. It was a very dark night and I could hear the frightening sounds of wild animals coming from all directions. What was I to do? I then saw a tree, the branches of which were hanging very low. I decided to spend the night amongst the branches, but how could I get any sleep with all the scary sounds all around?

Suddenly I heard a voice saying from far, 'Molvi Sahib!' Slowly, the voice started to get nearer to me. 'Who could it be?' I thought. 'It must be some devil or Jinn!' I was now even more scared. As the voice drew nearer and nearer, I thought 'How can this voice be addressing me as Molvi Sahib when I am only a student who has not even completed *Kaafiya*?'

Eventually, I saw two men whose faces were covered and who wore long shawls that covered their entire bodies. When they stood right in front of me, I saw that one was taller and the other was shorter. The taller one said, 'Do not be scared, Molvi Sahib.' He then turned to his friend and said, 'Molvi Sahib is very thirsty. Why don't you bring him some water.' His companion disappeared and immediately came back. He then took out from his shawl a jug which was so bright that it dazzled my eyes. It was a very beautiful jug and the water was so sweet that I was sure it was from another world.

After drinking the water, the taller person said to his shorter companion, 'Molvi Sahib is very hungry. Why don't you bring him some food?' Again his companion disappeared and immediately returned. He then took out from beneath his shawl an extremely beautiful platter which also shone very brightly. The platter contained rice so big and so tasty and that no eye had ever seen and no ear has ever heard about. He then said to me, 'Do not fear anything. Come out of that tree because no one will hurt you.'

He then pointed in a certain direction and told me that I will find a road there. He explained that if I walked along the road, I would find a certain town in which there lived a certain man. He named the man to me and told me to meet him. When I ask them who they were, they said, 'We have no permission to reveal this.' I then said to them, 'At least take me with you.' They refused and started walking away. I then started to follow them and they started to run. I ran behind them but tripped over something and fell. When I got up again, I saw that they had disappeared. I was forced to return to the tree, where I spent the night. Suddenly, all the frightening sounds of the forest had stopped and I felt no fear.

The next morning, I walked in the direction they pointed out, took the road and reached the town. I then searched for the man whom they had named and found him to be an old and saintly person. After I had related the story to him, he scolded me for leaving my studies to go for Hajj. In fact, he scolded me so severely that I thought he would actually hit me. He said, 'Go back and first complete your studies. Thereafter, you will go for Hajj if it is written for you. After you have completed your studies, you should teach the knowledge of Deen without asking for any salary.'

Dear children! This story teaches us that when we are studying the knowledge of Deen, we should not turn our attention to anything else. Although there are many good deeds we can perform, the best deed for us to carry out is to complete our studies together with carrying out those commands of Deen that are Fardh and Waajib.

The Reward for Making Sacrifices for Deen

Dear children! A Mu'min elevated does everything only to please Allaah Y and so that the Deen can be elevated. He does nothing for the sake of this world, or for wealth, for honour or to be praised and to have a good name. However, when a person is sincere and does things only to please Allaah Y and to safeguard the Dean, Allaah Y gives him success and honour in this world together with the reward he will receive in the Aakhirah.

A believer worships Allaah Y only to please him. He spends his wealth and his efforts so that the Deen can rise high in this world and not for honour or name. Although he does not do it so that he has luxuries and wealth in this world, Allaah Y does grant him some pleasures in this world according to His wisdom.

When Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah ψleft for the Battle of Badr, they had no proper animals to ride on, no proper clothing and hardly any provisions. However, they made the sacrifice and fought their enemy on the battlefield. They did not worry about their little wealth and equipment or about the fact that the enemy had more of these. Their sacrifice was only to please Allaah Y and to lift the Deen high in the world. Therefore, Allaah Y granted them double the reward and double the success. Together with the rewards of the Aakhirah, they also received the things of this world. When they won the battle, they received a lot of booty and by the time they reached Madinah, each one of them had at least one or two camels.

The sacrifices that the Sahabah ψ made, the wealth they spent and the Jihaad they fought was all done to please Allaah Y and for the benefit of the Deen. They made these sacrifices and efforts for Deen during difficult times and Allaah Y therefore gave them rewards in this world by making them rulers of many countries. They became governors and leaders of many countries even though there were times when they did not even have enough food to fill their stomachs or clothing to cover their bodies.

Hadhrat Uqba bin Farqad τ was the Governor of Basrah. One day, he delivered a lecture to the people in which he said, "I remember the time when I was one with six other people present with Rasulullaah ρ.

We had no food besides the leaves of trees, which gave us sores in our mouths. We hardly had any clothing as well and when I once found a sheet, I tore it into two and gave half to Sa'd bin Maalik τ. However, today each of the seven of us is the governor of a city."

Dear children! When an ordinary human being will not keep a debt on him, how can Allaah Y not pay back a person who makes sincere sacrifices for his Deen? Allaah Y appreciates everything a person does and rewards him greatly. He especially gives back a lot to a person who makes sacrifices for his Deen. Such a person gets honour in this world as well as in the Aakhirah. This was really the secret for the success of the Sahabah ψ. The only condition is that all a person's efforts should be only to please Allaah Y and so that the message of Islaam spreads throughout the world. A person should always have the concern for the Aakhirah, fear of Allaah Y and he should also have the concern that every person must be saved from Jahannam.

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 43: Who was the Sahabi τ who recited Qur'aan in Najaashi's court, because of which Najaashi began to cry?

Question 44: Who was the Sahabi τ who remained in the service of Rasulullaah ρ for ten years?

Question 45: Who was the Sahabi τ who chased after Rasulullaah ρ and Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ when they went for the Hijrah and later became a Muslim by the grace of Allaah Y?

Question 46: Who was the Sahabi τ who saw Dajjaal on an island after they had been shipwrecked?

Question 47: Allaah Y granted one of the Muslim armies a large fish called *Ambar*, from which they ate for eighteen days and even brought some back for Rasulullaah ρ to eat. Who was the commander of this army?

Question 48: When Hadhrat Umar τ was on his way to kill Rasulullaah ρ, who was the Sahabi τ who told him that he ought to see to his own family first?

Question 49: Which Sahabi τ killed Musaylama Kadhaab? This was the same person who before accepting Islaam martyred Rasulullaah ρ's beloved uncle Hadhrat Hamza τ.

The Mulberry Leaf

A person once came to Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله and asked him for proof that Allaah Y exists. After pondering for awhile, Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله said, "The mulberry leaf is proof that Allaah Y exists." The people were surprised and asked, "How is the mulberry leaf proof that Allaah Y exists?" Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله replied, "When a silkworm eats the mulberry leaf, it produces silk, when a bee eats the mulberry leaf, it produces honey and when a deer eats the mulberry leaf, it produces musk. Who is the Being Who produces so many different things from a single source? It can only be Allaah Y, Who created the universe and Who is the Greatest Creator."

NOTE: The story teaches us that we must have the necessary knowledge of Deen so that our beliefs and Imaan are correct and so that we can practise what is correct twenty-four hours of the day.

The second thing we learn is that when we go to seek knowledge from learned people, we must not go to argue or to object, but we should go like a person who is extremely hungry or thirsty because we need the knowledge.

The third thing we learn by the beautiful example he gave is that the saints have a deep understanding if things. We should also visit and stay in the company of pious people so that we can be better Muslims and be close to Allaah Y.

A Quarrelsome Person

A quarrelsome person once came to Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله and asked, "Since Shaytaan is made of fire, how can he be hurt when he is punished in the fire of Jahannam?" Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله thought for awhile, picked up a lump of sand and threw it at the man. When he saw that the man got hurt, Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله said, "You were created from sand but still got hurt by it. Similarly, although Shaytaan is made from fire, he can still be hurt by it."

What Progress!!!

When two villagers came to the city, it was the first time that they saw a Zebra. The one then said to the other, "Wow! Here even the donkeys wear underwear! And ones with designs as well!!"

The Fruits of Sincerity and Honesty

Hadhrat Mubaarak Abu Abdullaah رحمه الله worked for a long time in an orchard. The orchard belonged to a trader who one day called Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله and asked, "O Mubaarak! Go and get me a sweet pomegranate." Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله went and plucked off a pomegranate from tree and brought it to his master. The man cut it open but found that it was extremely bitter. "Mubaarak!" he said. "I asked for a sweet pomegranate and you have brought me a bitter one. Please go and get me a sweet one."

Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله went to another tree and fetched another pomegranate. When the master cut this one, he found to his disappointment that it was also very bitter. "Don't you know the difference between a sweet and a bitter pomegranate," he asked. "I am sorry, my master," Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله said, "but I have never tasted a single pomegranate in this orchard. I do not know which tree grows sweet ones and which tree grows bitter ones." The master asked in surprise, "You have never eaten a single fruit from the orchard?!" he replied, "You have employed me to care for the fruit and not to eat them. I have therefore never eaten a single fruit because I have no permission to do so." The trader was surprised and also pleased to know that he was a very honest man.

This trader now had a daughter whom he wished to get married. Although many people proposed for her hand in marriage, he did not marry her to anyone. He therefore call Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله one day and asked him, "As you know, I have a daughter who is receiving many proposals for marriage. However it is difficult for me to decide who to marry her to. I therefore wish to ask your advice."

Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله replied, "During the time of ignorance, people looked for a man with high family lineage to marry their daughters to. The Jews, however, look for wealth and the Christians look for beauty. In our Ummah, we give importance to the condition of a person's Islaam."

The trader was impressed by Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله 's intelligence and said to his wife, "I see no one better than Mubaarak to marry our daughter. He is extremely honest and reliable and earns a Halaal

income.” He therefore married his daughter to Hadhrat Mubaarak رحمه الله and out of this marriage the great saint and Mujaahid Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله was born.

Look dear friends! It is only a sweet smell that comes out of from perfumes and makes everything around it smell more sweetly. Similarly, good character affects everything around it. Remembering Allaah Y, concern for the Aakhirah and honesty are such qualities that raise a person’s status in the sight of Allaah Y. It also attracts other people to Islaam and is a means of spreading such good manners throughout the world.

Dear children! We should also do our best to make our actions beloved to Allaah Y so that they may attract other people to Islaam. This will also make it easy for us because when many people are practising upon Deen, it becomes easy for others (anyone else) to do the same.

A Person's True Friend is his Deeds

It is reported that a man had three friends. Although he liked the first two more, it was actually the third one who was an excellent and sincere person.

One day, he was accused of doing something he did not do and was called to appear in court. He therefore called for his friends and said, "You all know that I am innocent and that I will be found guilty if at least one of you does not prove to the judge that I am innocent.

The first friend whom he loved most excused himself saying, "I cannot stand with you because I have many other relatives to worry about." The second one went with him to the court, but when he reached the doors, he grew scared and turned back. It was then only the third friend that went inside with him.

When they went in, the friend spoke to defend the man and the judge accepted what he had to say. The man was then set free.

The three friends in this story is actually a person's wealth, family and good deeds. While a person loves his wealth the most and thinks it will be most beneficial to him, it will not come with him to the grave. His family and friends will only take him to the grave, but will then turn back and leave him all alone. It will only be his good deeds that will then go with him in the grave and will also stand with him on the Day of Qiyaamah, where is it will speak up for him and have Allaah Y's mercy showered on him.[1]

NOTE: Dear friends! Our real friend is the one whom we pay the least attention to. An intelligent person will rather spend more time and effort on that which is of benefit to him. He will make sure that he does good deeds, stays away from sin and fulfil all the rights he owes to Allaah Y and to other people. He must also thank Allaah Y for giving him the ability to do all of this.

Children! You must be knowing that when a person enters the grave, his good deeds surround his body and appear in a beautiful and fragrant smelling form to keep him company. From today, we must

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[1] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.440).

make the intention to do good and to tell others to do the same so that we can all be successful in this world and in the Aakhirah.

The One who Fools Us is not from Us

It was during the time when Hadhrat Umar τ was the Khalifah that he was walking about to check on the condition of the people when he happened to hear a mother and a daughter having the following discussion:

Mother: Come on, dear daughter! Since when do you not listen to what I say?

Daughter: I accept everything you say, mother, but….

Mother: But what? Don't you like what I am saying?

Daughter: It is not that, mother, but what you are saying has been prohibited by the Ameerul Mu'mineen.

Mother: I am not telling you to do anything difficult. All you have to do is mix some water with the milk so that we may get a bigger profit when we sell it tomorrow. Do not be stubborn! No one will know.

Daughter: I am not being stubborn, mother. I always love to listen to you and to obey you but my heart will not allow me to commit a sin.

Mother: What are you afraid of? I will not tell anyone.

Daughter: I am not afraid of that. Had you been in the marketplace yesterday, you would have heard our just Khalifah giving the order.

Mother: What frightening order did he give to stop you from mixing water in the milk?

Daughter: Dear Mother! Every order he gives is an order of the Deen. He was prohibiting us from fooling people and we must listen to our Ameerul Mu'mineen.

Mother: You are in your house and Hadhrat Umar τ is in his house. He cannot see you here. Go ahead and mix some water with the milk.

Daughter: Dear mother! Even if he cannot see me, Allaah Y Who is the Creator of the universe and who is the master of everyone, He never sleeps. He knows everything that moves and everything that does not and He sees everything. I swear by Allaah Y that it is not possible for me to obey Allaah Y in the marketplace and then disobey Him when I am at home

As he heard all of this, Hadhrat Umar τ was very pleased. He then went home and narrated the entire incident to his son and said, "I wish to marry you to this girl. His son accepted and the two were happily married.

Look dear friends! What a great wealth it is to be conscious and aware of Allaah Y at all times! It is because of this that a person stays away from sins and from disobedience to Him. Like this, a person will follow the commands of the Deen and will have a good effect on other people as well. Other people will try to be like him and they will succeed in this world as well as in the next. We should be like perfume that spreads its fragrance all over. May Allaah Y be pleased with us and grant us the best of both worlds. Aameen.

He who Digs a Hole for his Brother will himself Fall into it

There was once a king who was very, very sick and no matter how many doctors tried to treat him, none of them were successful. Eventually, the king made the announcement that he would very greatly reward any person by whose treatment Allaah Y gave him cure. As a result, doctors came from all parts of the land to treat the king, but none of them were successful.

One day, a villager happened to come to the town. When he heard about the announcement, he also prepared some medicines and gave it to the king to use for three days. By the Order of Allaah Y, these medicines cured the king. The kings team was extremely happy and praised the villager in front of all the important people of the country. The villager was made to feel very special and he became one of the close companions of the king.

The chief minister was however not happy. When he saw how much status the villager was receiving, he became very jealous. He thought that if this continued, the villager will soon take over his position. The minister therefore thought of a plan to put an end to it.

When he heard one day and that the villager was to have a meeting with the king after Isha salaah, he took the opportunity to put his plan into action. He therefore went before the king and appeared to be very sad. When the king asked him why he was so sad, he said, “You are so good to us and we appreciate this so much. However, as for the villager…”

“What?” the king exclaimed, “the villager is an extremely nice man and a very sincere one.” The minister then said, “The good that you know about him is only when he is in front of you. Otherwise, behind you he speaks evil things about you and your family. In fact, he even keeps his hand in front of his mouth when he talks to you because he says he cannot stand the smell of your mouth. You may not have noticed this before, but if you do not believe me, you should take note of it when he comes to see you this evening.”

That night, the minister invited the villager for supper. He had an excellent meal prepared and gave the instruction to the cook to add extra garlic in the food. When the villager arrived and started to eat. The food was delicious and he could not stop eating. When he had eaten a great deal, the minister said to him, "Do you know what's the secret of excellent meal?" "What is it?" the villager asked. The minister explained, "It is the amount of garlic we have put into it. Although garlic had a terrible smell, it makes food very tasty." When he heard to this, the villager immediately stopped eating.

"Why have you stopped eating?" the minister asked. The villager relied, "I am going to speak to the king tonight and I would not like the smell to be coming from my mouth." "Oh dear!" the minister exclaimed, "the king hates the smell of garlic. But do not worry. I know what you can do. When you are speaking to the king, keep your hand in front of your mouth so that the smell does not reach him."

When the villager went to speak to the king, the king remembered what the minister had said to him and took notice of how the villager behaved. When he saw the villager keeping his hand in front of his mouth, he became very angry and decided to have the villager put to death.

He therefore wrote a letter to a friend of his. He wrote, "The man who brings you this letter is very unfaithful. As soon as you receive this letter from him, you should behead him." He then handed the letter over to the villager and sent him to deliver it.

Anxious to know what had happened, the minister went to the villager before he left and asked him what had happened. When the villager explained that he had the letter to deliver, the minister thought that his plan had failed and that the king was now giving the villager important work to do. He therefore said to the villager, "Do not worry! I shall deliver this letter for you and you may return home."

The villager therefore handed the letter over to the minister and when he delivered the letter, he was immediately beheaded. When the king eventually learnt what had happened, he was pleased to be rid of the jealous minister.

See, dear children! Evil plans never have a good result. Allaah Y sees everything, hears everything and knows what every person wants to do. Whenever we try to harm someone, we ourselves will lose.

If our parents or teachers reward someone for doing something, we must never be jealous about it. Never be jealous and never think that we will cause them disgrace. We must rather try to do what they have done so that we can also enjoy the same admiration.

Questions Pertaining to the Sahabah ψ

Question 50: Which Sahabi τ amazingly learnt the Syriac language in seventeen days and the Hebrew language in fifteen days?

Question 51: Who was the brave Sahabiyah lady رضي الله عنها who took part in the battle with the permission of Rasulullaah ρ and would tend to the wounded and carry the martyrs off the battlefield?

Question 52: When the Mushrikeen stopped the Muslims from entering Makkah at Hudaybiyyah, a man called Urwa came to judge the situation of the Muslims. When he touched the blessed beard of Rasulullaah ρ, who was the Sahabi τ who pushed his hand away?

Question 53: When Rasulullaah ρ sent the Muslim army to Mu'ta, he named three of the commanders, all of whom were martyred. Thereafter, Hadhrat Khaalid bin Waleed τ took command. Who were these three Sahabah ψ?

Question 54: During the Battle of Uhud, Rasulullaah ρ held out his sword and said, "Who will take this sword and fulfil its rights." Who was the brave Sahabi τ who took it?

Question 55: There was a brave Sahabi τ who shielded Rasulullaah ρ's face with his head during battles, because of which his eye fell out of its socket. Rasulullaah ρ then took the eye and made du'aa saying, "O Allaah! He protected the face of your Nabi ρ. You heal his eye." Allaah Y then made his eye perfectly healthy. Who was this fortunate Sahabi τ?

Question 56: During the Battle of Tabook, Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ gave all his wealth and Hadhrat Umar τ gave half of all he had. Who was the Sahabi τ who provided all the provisions for one third of the army?

Question 57: During the Battle of Khaybar when the Muslims were fighting the Jews, Rasulullaah ρ announced, "Tomorrow I shall give the flag over to someone who loves Allaah Y and His Rasool ρ and whom Allaah Y and His Rasool ρ also love." When Rasulullaah ρ then called for that Sahabi τ, he was suffering pain in his eye. Rasulullaah ρ then applied some of his blessed saliva to the eye and it was cured by the command of Allaah Y. Who was the Sahabi τ?

Question 58: After Rasulullaah ρ and his followers suffered for a long time in the valley of Abu Taalib because of a boycott agreement, the agreement was eaten up by termites (all besides the part on

which Allaah Y's name was written). Thereafter, a Sahabi τ tore up what was left of the agreement. It was after this that the boycott came to an end and the Muslims were free. Who was this Sahabi τ?

Question 59: There was a Sahabi τ who shielded Rasulullaah ρ with his chest during the Battle of Uhud and Rasulullaah ρ said that having him in an army is better than a hundred men? Who was the Sahabi τ?

Unaqaa

We will now relate to you the story of a strange animal called the Unaqaa. While you may have heard the name, you most probably do not know the story.

The Unaqaa is a strange but fictional animal. It is said that it is a type of a bird that lives for six hundred years. It is as tall as an eagle and has a beautiful crown on its head that shines like lightening. Its neck is also extremely beautiful with little golden feathers that dazzle the eyes. The rest of its body, belly and feathers are purple in colour, except for its tail, which is mostly red and white. Its eyes shine like the stars and we cannot imagine anything more beautiful than it.

Its birth and death are also most strange. It is said that when it grows old, the Unaqaa collects fragrant sticks from a forest and builds a nest like a grave. It then goes inside and does not come out until it dies. From its flesh and bones, a worm is created, which grows hairs and feathers and soon becomes another Unaqaa.

This Unaqaa then collects fragrant material and make a ball that is large enough for it to carry. After making this ball hollow, it places the remains of the dead Unaqaa into the ball and flies off to Heliopolis, where people worship the fire and have a huge fire burning. It then throws the ball into the fire.

It is because of the strangeness of this bird that when something is impossible to find, people say that it is an Unaqaa.

Here and There

The Khalifah Haaroon Ansaar-Rasheed once called one of his servants and gave him three Dirhams saying, "Take this and spend one of them here and there. Spend the second one here and not there and spend the third here. The servant went away and when he saw a Masjid being built, he gave a Dirham for the building of the Masjid. He then saw a juggler performing for the people and gave him the other Dirham. With the third Dirham, he bought a fruit.

He then returned and explained to the Khalifah, "I spent the first Dirham for the building of the Masjid, which will be of benefit to you in this world as well as in the Aakhirah. I then spent the second Dirham on a juggler, which will not benefit you in either world and with the third Dirham I bought a fruit, which will benefit you in this world."

The Khalifah was very pleased with the servant and rewarded him generously.

Gems of Wisdom

- When you love death, you will be given life (Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ)
- Humbleness is related to the heart and not to outward actions (Hadhrat Umar τ)
- Using a bounty in the wrong place is ingratitude (Hadhrat Uthmaan τ)
- You will have a good end if you use the end of your life to make up for the time you wasted in the early days of your life (Hadhrat Ali τ)
- It is your duty to start something and Allaah Y's work to make sure it is completed (Abdul Qaadir Jaylaani رحمه الله)

Questions and Answers

Question: What is one and has nor second?
Answer: Allaah Y. There is only One Allaah Y and no second Allaah Y.

Question: What are only two and have no third?
Answer: Day and night. They are only two and have no third.

Question: What are only three and have no fourth?
Answer: The *Lowhul Mahfoodh*, the Pen and the *Kursi*. They are only three and have no fourth.

Question: What are only four and have no fifth?
Answer: The Torah, the Zaboor, the Injeel and the Qur'aan. They are only four and have no fifth.

Question: What are only five and have no sixth?
Answer: Fajr, Zuhar, Asr, Maghrib and Isha. They are only five and have no sixth.

Question: What are only six and have no seventh?
Answer: The six days in which Allaah Y created the earth and the skies. They are only six and have no seventh.

Question: What are only seven and have no eighth?
Answer: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They are only seven and have no eighth.

Question: What are only eight and have no ninth?
Answer: The eight angels carrying Allaah Y's Arsh. They are only eight and have no ninth.

Question: What are only nine and have no tenth?
Answer: The nine evils that the people of Hadhrat Shu'ayb υ committed. They are only nine and have no tenth.

Question: What are only ten and have no eleventh?
Answer: The Ashara Mubashara (the ten Sahabah ψ whom Rasulullaah ρ mentioned in one statement that they will all be going to Jannah). They are only ten and have no eleventh.

Question: What are only eleven and have no twelfth?
Answer: The eleven brothers of Hadhrat Yusuf υ. They are only eleven and have no twelfth.

Question: What are only twelve and have no thirteenth?
Answer: The twelve months of the year. They are only twelve and have no thirteenth.

Question: What are only thirteen and have no fourteenth?
Answer: The eleven stars, sun and moon that Hadhrat Yusuf υ saw making Sajdah to him in a dream. They are only thirteen and have no fourteenth.

Question: What are only fourteen and have no fifteenth?
Answer: The seven levels of the earth plus the seven levels of the skies. They are only fourteen and have no fifteenth.

Question: What non-living thing takes a breath?
Answer: The morning, because Allaah Y says, "And by the morning when it takes a breath".

Question: Who were those who were never born to a mother?
Answer: They were four. Hadhrat Aadam υ, Hadhrat Hawwa رضي الله عنها, the camel of Hadhrat Saalih υ and the ram that replaced Hadhrat Ismaa'eel υ to be slaughtered.

Question: What is the grave that moves along with what is inside?
Answer: The fish that swallowed Hadhrat Yunus υ. It was like grave for him.

Question: What lifeless thing made Tawaaf of the Kabah?
Answer: The ark of Hadhrat Nooh υ.

Advices to Children

Beloved children! Now I want you to listen very carefully to the advices I wish to give you. Use them to correct your actions and do your best to practise on them all.

Please remember everything you will be told. Do you know how to remember them? Nothing can be stolen from the heart, so the only way something leaves the heart is when we use our eyes, ears and tongue in the wrong way. We must therefore make the intention that we will not use them wrongly. Now read on with attention:

1. When two elders are speaking or when an elder is talking to you, you would listen attentively and do not say anything in between unless they ask you something.
2. When your parents scold you for anything, immediately apologise and say that you will not do it again. It is bad to be stubborn and to prove that you were right.
3. If your parents scold you for something, just admit the wrong you did and never involve others just to shift the blame from yourself. For example, if your father is scolding you for not getting something from the shop, do not say:

   - "Mother told me to do something else"
   - "Sister did not iron my clothes. How could I go?"
   - "Brother took my bicycle so I could not go"

By doing this, your father will feel that the entire family is no good.

4. Speak gently to all relatives and strangers, even when you are angry.
5. Never speak what is not necessary.
6. Never speak rudely.
7. When someone speaks angrily to you, explain nicely to them that there is no benefit in you both becoming angry. Tell the person that neither should he have ill feelings for you, nor should you have any for him and then make everything clear to him.

8. When your parents are angry, remain silent. Wait until they are in a good mood before explaining why you think they should not have scolded you. Remember that you must do this with great respect.

Dear children! Our elders tell us that we must speak so gently and respectfully to our parents like a slave speaks to an ill-tempered master. Let us think and see how many times every day do we speak rudely to them or back chat them. Remember that the Qur'aan states that you must not even say "Oof!" to them[1].

This means that you must not tell them anything that will hurt their feelings. In fact, even if you take a deep sigh when they tell you something, it will also be regarded as saying "Oof!". This was mentioned by Hadhrat Ali τ.[2] Therefore, saying anything that hurts them is Haraam.

Dear children! We must also never harm our neighbours in any way. In fact, Rasulullaah ρ said that Hadhrat Jibra'eel υ stressed the importance of fulfilling the rights of neighbours so much that Rasulullaah ρ actually thought that neighbours will also be made to inherit form their neighbours.[3]

Nowadays however, we rather make noise or unnecessarily ring our neighbours doorbells[4] when they are resting. Sometimes, we even let them wait outside the door without answering just to tire them. These are terrible actions.

Then there are those of us who close off the streets to play[5]. Not only does the noise disturb people, but we are hindering people from passing by[6]. Even worse is when our ball hits a passer by, who is often a woman or a little innocent child. Many times, the ball causes people riding bicycles to motorbikes to lose their balance and injure themselves. How will we ever look for these people and ask them for forgiveness? Furthermore, when the ball breaks someone's windows and they merely swallow their anger and have it fixed by themselves, where will the sin for all of this go? It will definitely be in someone's book of deeds. This is not counting the many times we disturb

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[1] Surah Banu Israa'eel, verse 23.
[2] *Qurtubi* (Vol.2 Pg.177).
[3] Bukhaari (Vol.2 Pg.889).
[4] *Ma'aarful Qur'aan* (Vol.6).
[5] *Aap ke Masaa'il awr un ka Hal* (Vol.7 Pg.330) and *Sarako ka Najaa'iz Isti'maal.*
[6] *Imdaadul Muftiyeen*.

someone’s sleep, meals or Ibaadah by knocking at their door and asking for the ball when it lands in their yard[1]. It is only people who have no concern for the Aakhirah who do things like this.

A good Muslim shivers to even think of giving any person any difficulty because he does not want the curses of people.

Another terrible thing that people do, which is Haraam[2] according to the Shari'ah and is also something which a person’s understanding will tell him is wrong, this evil is the bursting of fireworks. Not only is this a sin, but it is a major sin because it terrifies many little children[3], weak-hearted people, sick people and animals. In fact, even the non-Muslims in many areas join in with the Muslims[4]. It makes little children cling to their mothers in fear and to cry when they ought to be resting[5]. The mother then has difficulty in putting the child to sleep and has to spend the rest of the night up with him. Who will be responsible for all the hardships caused to people? You will also share in the sin of all this by joining those who do it.

There are also other sins attached to this evil. Some of them are:

- Danger to the body and health
- Wastage of money[6]
- Wastage of time
- Using fire for fun whereas it is an instrument of punishment[7]
- Imitating non-Muslims[8]
- Using non-Muslim customs to celebrate big nights adds to the sin[9]
- Together with harming people and animals, this also harms the angels (they descend to earth more on the big nights)[10]
- If fireworks are used especially on big nights, the act will mean that doing so is encouraged by Allaah Y and Rasulullaah ρ, which is a lie and adds to the sin[11]

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[1] *Ma’aarful Qur'aan* (Vol.6) and *Ahsanul Fataawaa* (Vol.8 Pg.295).
[2] *Islaahur Rusoom*.
[3] *Behisti Zewar.*
[4] *Ma’aarful Qur'aan* (Vol.6).
[5] *Fataawaa Mahmoodiyya* (Vol.8) and *Ahsanul Fataawaa* (Vol.7)
[6] *Islaahur Rusoom*.
[7] *Islaahur Rusoom*.
[8] *Jawaahirul Fiqh* Vol.6, *Imdaadul Fataawaa* (Vol.6) and *Saat Masaa’il*.
[9] *Fadhaa’ile Ramadhaan*.
[10] *Azeezull Fataawaa* (Vol.8 Pg.295).
[11] *Imdaadul Muftiyeen*.

It is therefore necessary to stop this and to ask Allaah Y for forgiveness. Those parents who give their children the money to buy fireworks, who buy the fireworks for them or have stalls to sell them. Such parents are also guilty of a very grave sin[1]. In fact, all people who have influence in the society are also sinful when they either encourage people to use fireworks or permit them by not preventing people from using them[2] or by not taking any interest in doing so.

We must therefore ask Allaah Y for forgiveness and make sure that we also tell others to stop using fireworks. If we do not buy fireworks, there will be no one to sell them either. In this way, we will prevent so many others from getting involved in this terrible sin.

Bad Company

New Prisoner: I do not see any relatives visiting you here?

Old Prisoner: I am lucky to have them all here already.

Male or female?

Mother: Listen here Anwar and Munawwar! From all the flies in the house, which are male and which are female?

Munawwar: How can we tell?

Anwar: That's easy! Those sitting with Mom on the kitchen table are female and those sitting on the files in Dad's office are male!

[1] *Behisti Zewar and Islaah Inqilaabe Ummat (Vol.1 Pg.129).*
[2] *Tasheehul Ilm* and *Ahsanul Fataawaa* (Vol.4).

Innocent

A little boy lost in a shopping centre is crying as he goes up to a policeman and asks, “Sir! Have you seen my mother without me?

Why? What? How?

1. Why do Zebras have stripes?

A zebra uses its stripes as camouflage to protect it from its enemies. Camouflage is something that hides a person or thing from being seen by an enemy. When people wear camouflage, they wear clothing that matches the colour of their surroundings and may also put branches and sticks with it so that they look just like their surroundings. In such a way, they cannot be recognised when their enemy looks for them. Soldiers wear brown clothing with green markings to make them look like trees and bushes.

Although it is easy to recognise a zebra with its black and white stripes, it is when the zebra stands behind trees and bushes are it is hard to recognise.

Another interesting point to note is that just as people can be differentiated by their fingerprints, the stripes of every zebra is different so that one can be recognised from another.

2. Why are birds not affected when they sit on power cables?

The reason why birds are not electrocuted when sitting on power lines is that they conduct either only positive or only negative current. Because an electric circuit is completed by both positive and negative currents, a circuit is not completed when a bird sits on a cable.

3. Why do people cry when Cutting Onions?

There is a special type off oil inside onions which flies into the air when they are cut. When this particular oil gets into a person’s eye is, the eye starts to burn and then sends a message to the brain asking for help. The brain in turn sends a message to the tear ducts to send tears to wash the oil out.

4. Why is Fire Usually Red to Yellow?

The colours we see depends on the light rays that reach our eyes. Something therefore looks red to us when it reflects only red light rays to our eyes. Burning flames seem red and yellow because when the rays from the heat of the fire enter our eyes, they appear red and yellow.

Strange but True

1. The Clock with the Largest Face

The world’s largest clock face is that of the floral clock, which measures 21 metres in diameter. It was made by the Japanese clock company Seiko for Koryu Fujisho company and installed inside the Rose Building in Hokkaido, Japan. The longest hand of the clock measures 8.5 metres.

2. Turning Tree

There is a tree that grows in central Africa which actually turns. When sever winds uproot other trees, the roots of this tree turn in all directions to face the wind and is therefore not uprooted.

3. The Largest Peninsula

While an island is a piece of land completely surrounded by water, a peninsula is a piece of land surrounded on three sides by water. The other side is attached to land. The largest peninsula in the world is the Arabian Peninsula, which measures 3 250 000 square kilometres.

Jokes

TEACHER: Munawwar, why are you doing your math sums on the floor?
MUNAWWAR: You told me to do it without using tables!

TEACHER: What a pair of strange socks you are wearing, one is green and one is blue with red spots!
SALMAAN: Yes it's really strange. I've got another pair just like that at home.

TEACHER: Bongani, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?
SAADIQ: No, teacher, it's the same dog!

Answers to the Questions Concerning the Sahabah ψ

1. Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ
2. Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ
3. Hadhrat Uthmaan Ghani τ
4. Hadhrat Imraan bin Husayn τ
5. Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ
6. Hadhrat Ahbaab bin Aws τ
7. Hadhrat Sawaad bin Qaarib τ
8. Hadhrat Zamaan bin Azoobah τ
9. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zaid τ
10. Hadhrat Zaid bin Thaabit τ
11. Hadhrat Suraaqa bin Juhshum τ
12. Hadhrat Abu Talha Ansaari τ
13. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Salaam τ
14. Hadhrat Zaid bin Haaritha τ
15. Hadhrat Ja'far Tayyaar τ
16. Hadhrat Ma'qal bin Sanaan τ
17. Hadhrat Ammaar bin Yaasir τ
18. Hadhrat Usayd bin Hudhayr τ and Hadhrat Imaad bin Bishr τ
19. Hadhrat Fidak bin Ammaar τ
20. Hadhrat Miqdaad bin Aswad τ
21. Hadhrat Zubayr bin Awwaam τ
22. Hadhrat Hishaam bin Hakam τ
23. Hadhrat Khubayb τ
24. Hadhrat Usayd bin Hudhayr τ
25. Hadhrat Ummu Ammaara رضي الله عنها
26. Hadhrat Faatima bint Khattaab رضي الله عنها
27. Hadhrat Umaamah bint Abul Aas رضي الله عنها
28. Hadhrat Abu Ayyoob Ansaari τ
29. Hadhrat Hudahyfah bin Yamaan τ
30. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ
31. Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ
32. Hadhrat Ameer Mu'aawiya τ
33. Hadhrat Hasan τ and Hadhrat Husayn τ
34. Hadhrat Ali τ
35. Hadhrat Thowbaan τ
36. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ
37. Hadhrat Hamzah τ

38. Hadhrat Abu Talha τ and Hadhrat Ummu Sulaym رضي الله عنها
39. Hadhrat Abu Dharr τ
40. Hadhrat Hakam bin Abul Aas τ
41. Hadhrat Muhammad bin Qaasim رحمه الله
42. Hadhrat Salamah bin Akwa τ
43. Hadhrat Ja'far Tayyaar τ
44. Hadhrat Anas τ
45. Hadhrat Suraaqa bin Maalik τ
46. Hadhrat Tameem Daari τ
47. Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah bin Jarraah τ
48. Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas τ
49. Hadhrat Wahshi τ
50. Hadhrat Zaid bin Thaabit τ
51. Hadhrat Rabee'ah bint Mu'awwidh رضي الله عنها
52. Hadhrat Mughiera bin Shu'ba τ
53. Hadhrat Zaid bin Haaritha τ, Hadhrat Ja'far Tayyaar τ and Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Rawaaha τ
54. Hadhrat Dujaana Samak bin Kharshaana τ
55. Hadhrat Qataadah bin Nu'maan τ
56. Hadhrat Uthmaan Ghani τ
57. Hadhrat Ali τ
58. Hadhrat Mut'im bin Adi τ
59. Hadhrat Abu Talha bin Suhail τ

Translation Edited by
Mufti Afzal Hoosen Elias
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